

HYPERPOLYGON SPACES AND MODULI SPACES OF PARABOLIC HIGGS BUNDLES

LEONOR GODINHO AND ALESSIA MANDINI

ABSTRACT. Given an n -tuple of positive real numbers α we consider the hyperpolygon space $X(\alpha)$, the hyperkähler quotient analogue to the Kähler moduli space of polygons in \mathbb{R}^3 . We prove the existence of an isomorphism between hyperpolygon spaces and moduli spaces of stable, rank-2, holomorphically trivial parabolic Higgs bundles over \mathbb{CP}^1 with fixed determinant and trace-free Higgs field. This isomorphism allows us to prove that hyperpolygon spaces $X(\alpha)$ undergo an elementary transformation in the sense of Mukai as α crosses a wall in the space of its admissible values. We describe the changes in the core of $X(\alpha)$ as a result of this transformation as well as the changes in the nilpotent cone of the corresponding moduli spaces of parabolic Higgs bundles. Moreover, we study the intersection rings of the core components of $X(\alpha)$. In particular, we find generators of these rings, prove a recursion relation in n for their intersection numbers and use it to obtain explicit formulas for the computation of these numbers. Using our isomorphism, we obtain similar formulas for each connected component of the nilpotent cone of the corresponding moduli spaces of parabolic Higgs bundles thus determining their intersection rings. As a final application of our isomorphism we describe the cohomology ring structure of these moduli spaces of parabolic Higgs bundles and of the components of their nilpotent cone.

1. INTRODUCTION

In this work we study two families of manifolds: hyperpolygon spaces and moduli spaces of stable, rank-2, holomorphically trivial parabolic Higgs bundles over \mathbb{CP}^1 with fixed determinant and trace free Higgs

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field, proving the existence of an isomorphism between them. This relationship connecting two different fields of study allows us to benefit from techniques and ideas from each of these areas to obtain new results and insights. In particular, using the study of variation of moduli spaces of parabolic Higgs bundles over a curve, we describe the dependence of hyperpolygon spaces $X(\alpha)$ and their cores on the choice of the parameter α . We study the chamber structure on the space of admissible values of α and show that, when a wall is crossed, the hyperpolygon space suffers an elementary transformation in the sense of Mukai. Working on the side of hyperpolygons, we take advantage of the geometric description of the core components of a hyperpolygon space to study their intersection rings. We find homology cycles dual to generators of these rings and prove a recursion relation that allows us to decrease the dimension of the spaces involved. Based on this relation we obtain explicit expressions for the computation of the intersection numbers of the core components of hyperpolygon spaces. Using our isomorphism we can obtain similar formulas for the nilpotent cone components of the moduli space of rank-2, holomorphically trivial parabolic Higgs bundles over \mathbb{CP}^1 with fixed determinant and trace-free Higgs field. To better understand these results we begin with a brief overview of the two families of spaces involved.

Let K be a compact Lie group acting on a symplectic manifold (V, ω) with a moment map $\mu : V \rightarrow \mathfrak{k}^*$. Then, for an appropriate central value α of the moment map, one has a smooth symplectic quotient

$$M(\alpha) := \mu^{-1}(\alpha)/K.$$

Suppose that the cotangent bundle T^*V has a hyperkähler structure and that the action of K extends naturally to an action on T^*V with a hyperkähler moment map $\mu_{HK} : T^*V \rightarrow \mathfrak{k}^* \oplus (\mathfrak{k} \otimes \mathbb{C})^*$. Then one defines the hyperkähler quotient as

$$X(\alpha, \beta) := \mu_{HK}^{-1}(\alpha, \beta)/K$$

for appropriate values of (α, β) . When $V = S^2 \times \cdots \times S^2$ is a product of n spheres and $K = SO(3)$, the space $X(\alpha, \beta)$ for generic (α, β) is a smooth non-compact hyperkähler quotient of a product of cotangent bundles T^*S^2 by $SO(3)$. When $\beta = 0$,

$$X(\alpha) := X(\alpha, 0)$$

contains the so-called polygon space $M(\alpha)$ of all configurations of closed piecewise linear paths in \mathbb{R}^3 with n steps of lengths $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ modulo rotations and translations (a symplectic quotient of a product of S^2 s by $SO(3)$). For this reason, $X(\alpha)$ is usually called a *hyperpolygon space*.

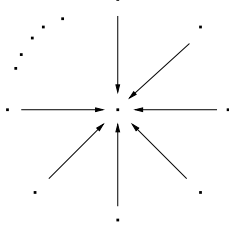


FIGURE 1. Star-shaped quiver

This family of hyperkähler quotients was first studied by Konno in [25] where he shows that these spaces, when smooth, are all diffeomorphic.

It is known that a polygon space $M(\alpha)$ can be viewed as the moduli space of stable representations of a star-shaped quiver, as in Figure 1. More precisely, a star-shaped quiver \mathcal{Q} with dimension vector

$$v = (2, 1, \dots, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$$

is a directed graph with vertex set $J = \{0\} \cup \{1, \dots, n\}$ and edge set $E = \{(i, 0) \mid i \in \{1, \dots, n\}\}$. A representation of \mathcal{Q} , associated to a choice of finite dimensional vector spaces V_i , for $i \in J$, such that $\dim V_i = v_i$, is the space of homomorphisms from V_i to V_0 for every pair of vertices i and j connected by an edge in E . Therefore, the representation space of the star-shaped quiver \mathcal{Q} described above is

$$E(\mathcal{Q}, V) = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \text{Hom}(V_i, V_0) \cong \mathbb{C}^{2n}.$$

The group $\prod GL(V_i)/GL(1)_\Delta$ acts in a Hamiltonian way on $E(\mathcal{Q}, V)$ and the polygon space $M(\alpha)$ is obtained by symplectic reduction of $E(\mathcal{Q}, V)$ by this group, at the value α . Similarly, one can obtain the hyperpolygon space $X(\alpha)$ as the hyperkähler reduction of $T^*E(\mathcal{Q}, V)$ by the group $\prod GL(V_i)/GL(1)_\Delta$ at $(\alpha, 0)$. Consequently, polygon and hyperpolygon spaces are examples of Kähler and hyperkähler quiver varieties in the sense of Nakajima [33, 31].

Any hyperkähler quiver variety X admits a natural \mathbb{C}^* -action and the *core* \mathfrak{L} of X is defined as the set of points $x \in X$ for which the limit

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \lambda \cdot x$$

exists. It clearly contains all the fixed-point set components and their flow-downs. Moreover, the core \mathfrak{L} is a Lagrangian subvariety with respect to the holomorphic symplectic form and is a deformation retraction of X . The circle $S^1 \subset \mathbb{C}^*$ acts on X in a Hamiltonian way with respect to the real symplectic form. This action has been studied

by Konno [25] for hyperpolygon spaces. He shows that the fixed-point set of this action contains the polygon space $M(\alpha)$ (where the moment map attains its minimum) and that all the other components of $X(\alpha)^{S^1}$ are in bijection with the collection of index sets $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ of cardinality at least 2 which satisfy

$$(1.1) \quad \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i - \sum_{i \in S^c} \alpha_i < 0$$

(see Theorem 2.2). Sets satisfying (1.1) are called *short* sets following Walker [36] and play a very important role in the study of polygon and hyperpolygon spaces. The core of the hyperpolygon space $X(\alpha)$ is then

$$\mathfrak{L}_\alpha := M(\alpha) \cup \bigcup_{S \in \mathcal{S}'(\alpha)} U_S,$$

where U_S is the closure of the flow-down set of the fixed-point set component X_S determined by the set S , and $\mathcal{S}'(\alpha)$ is the collection of short sets of cardinality at least 2. Note that, even though the hyperpolygon spaces $X(\alpha)$ are all diffeomorphic for any generic choice of α , they are not isomorphic as complex manifolds, nor as real symplectic manifolds nor as hyperkähler manifolds. In particular, they are not S^1 -equivariantly isomorphic and the dependence of $X(\alpha)$ and of its core \mathfrak{L}_α will be seen in Section 4.1. The study of these changes is important since, for instance, the connected components of the core of a quiver variety give a basis for the middle homology of the variety.

Let us now focus on the other family of spaces studied in this work. Higgs bundles over a compact connected Riemann surface Σ have been introduced by Hitchin [20, 21] and are an important object of study in geometry with several relations with physics and representation theory. *Parabolic Higgs bundles*, as first introduced by Simpson [34] (and hereafter referred to as simply PHBs), are holomorphic vector bundles over Σ endowed with a parabolic structure, that is, choices of weighted flags in the fibers over certain distinct marked points x_1, \dots, x_n in Σ , together with a Higgs field that respects the parabolic structure.

More precisely, if D is the divisor $D = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$ and K_Σ is the canonical bundle over Σ , a parabolic Higgs bundle is a pair $\mathbf{E} := (E, \Phi)$ where E is a parabolic bundle over Σ and

$$\Phi : E \longrightarrow E \otimes K_\Sigma(D)$$

(called the *Higgs field*) is a strongly parabolic homomorphism. This means that Φ is a meromorphic endomorphism-valued one-form with simple poles along D whose residues are nilpotent with respect to the flags.

As in the non-parabolic case, there exists a stability criterion (depending on the parabolic weights) that leads to the construction of moduli spaces of semistable parabolic Higgs bundles [40]. These spaces are smooth quasiprojective algebraic manifolds when the parabolic weights are chosen so that stability and semistability coincide. Such parabolic weights are called *generic*.

The original work of Hitchin in the non-parabolic setting extends to this context. In particular, the moduli space of parabolic Higgs bundles can be identified (as smooth manifolds) with the moduli space of solutions of the parabolic version of Hitchin's equations

$$F(A)^\perp + [\Phi, \Phi^*] = 0, \quad \bar{\partial}_A \Phi = 0,$$

where A is a singular connection, unitary with respect to a singular hermitian metric on the bundle E adapted to the parabolic structure (see [26] for details).

The moduli spaces of parabolic Higgs bundles have a rich geometric structure. In particular, they contain the total space of the cotangent bundle of the moduli space of parabolic bundles whose holomorphic symplectic form can be extended to the entire moduli space. Let $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d}$ be the moduli space of rank- r , degree- d parabolic Higgs bundles that are stable for a choice of parabolic weights β , and let $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d}^{0,\Lambda} \subset \mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d}$ be the subspace of elements (E, Φ) that have fixed determinant and trace-free Higgs field. Konno provides a gauge-theoretic interpretation of the moduli spaces $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d}^{0,\Lambda}$ endowing them with a real symplectic form that, combined with the holomorphic one, gives a hyperkähler structure on $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d}^{0,\Lambda}$, [26].

On the moduli space $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d}$ there is a natural \mathbb{C}^* -action by scalar multiplication of the Higgs field. Restricting to $S^1 \subset \mathbb{C}^*$ one obtains a Hamiltonian circle action whose moment map $f : \mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a perfect Morse-Bott function on $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d}$. Its downward Morse flow coincides with the so-called *nilpotent cone* of $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d}$ (see [13] where the work of Hausel [17] is generalized to the parabolic case).

In this paper we show that hyperpolygon spaces are S^1 -isomorphic to certain subspaces of $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,2,0}^{0,\Lambda}$ for $\Sigma = \mathbb{CP}^1$ and for a generic choice of the parabolic weights $\beta_2(x_i), \beta_1(x_i)$ with $x_i \in D$. Let α be the vector

$$\alpha := (\beta_2(x_1) - \beta_1(x_1), \dots, \beta_2(x_n) - \beta_1(x_n)) \in \mathbb{R}_+^n.$$

Then the hyperpolygon space $X(\alpha)$ is S^1 -isomorphic to the moduli space $\mathcal{H}(\beta) \subset \mathcal{N}_{\beta,2,0}^{0,\Lambda}$ of stable rank-2, holomorphically trivial PHBs over \mathbb{CP}^1 with fixed determinant and trace free Higgs field. The isomorphism

$$(1.2) \quad \mathcal{J} : X(\alpha) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(\beta)$$

constructed in (3.1) restricts to an isomorphism between the polygon space $M(\alpha)$ and the moduli space of stable, rank-2, holomorphically trivial parabolic bundles over \mathbb{CP}^1 with fixed determinant. (Viewing a polygon as a representation of a star-shaped quiver \mathcal{Q} naturally yields a flag structure on n fibers of a rank-2, trivial bundle over \mathbb{CP}^1 .) The fact that these two spaces are isomorphic has already been noted by Agnihotri and Woodward in [2] for small values of β . There, a different approach is taken to show that the symplectic quotient of a product of $SU(m)$ -coadjoint orbits is isomorphic to the space of rank- m parabolic degree-0 bundles over \mathbb{CP}^1 for sufficiently small parabolic weights.

Generalizing the Morse-theoretic techniques introduced by Hitchin [20] for the non-parabolic case, Boden and Yokogawa [7] and Garcia-Prada, Gothen and Muñoz [13] use the restriction of the moment map f to $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d}^{0,\Lambda}$ to compute the Betti numbers in the rank-2 and rank-3 situation. These turn out to be independent of the parabolic weights. This fact is explained by Nakajima [32] who shows that the moduli spaces $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d}^{0,\Lambda}$ are actually diffeomorphic for any generic choice of the parabolic weights β .

The space Q of admissible values of the parabolic weights β contains a finite number of hyperplanes, called *walls*, formed by non-generic values of β , which divide Q into a finite number of chambers of generic values. Thaddeus in [35] shows that as β crosses one of these walls the moduli space of parabolic Higgs bundles undergoes an elementary transformation in the sense of Mukai [30] (see also [23] for a detailed construction of these elementary transformations).

We adapt the work of Thaddeus to the moduli space $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$. In particular, we conclude that if $\mathcal{H}^\pm := \mathcal{H}(\beta^\pm)$ are moduli spaces of PHBs for parabolic weights β^+ and β^- on either side of a wall W , then \mathcal{H}^+ and \mathcal{H}^- are related by a Mukai transformation where \mathcal{H}^+ and \mathcal{H}^- have a common blow-up. The locus in \mathcal{H}^- which is blown up is isomorphic to a complex projective space $\mathbb{P}U^-$ parameterizing all non-split extensions

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathbf{L}^+ \longrightarrow \mathbf{E} \longrightarrow \mathbf{L}^- \longrightarrow 0$$

of a trivial parabolic Higgs line bundle \mathbf{L}^- that are β^- -stable but β^+ -unstable. Using the isomorphism in (1.2) we conclude that the corresponding hyperpolygon spaces $X^\pm := X(\alpha^\pm)$ are related by a Mukai transformation (see Theorem 4.2). Moreover, the blown up locus $\mathbb{P}U^-$ corresponds, via the isomorphism above, to a core component $U_{\bar{S}}^-$ in X^- for some short set $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ uniquely determined by the wall W . Taking advantage of the geometric description of the core components in $X(\alpha)$ we study the changes in the other components U_B^\pm of the

cores \mathfrak{L}_\pm when crossing a wall, which naturally depend on the intersections $U_B^- \cap U_S^-$ and $U_B^+ \cap U_{S^c}^-$ (see Section 4.1). Moreover, we recover the description of the birational map relating the polygon spaces $M(\alpha^\pm)$ given in [29]. These changes in the core translate, via our isomorphism, to changes in the nilpotent cone of $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$. In particular, one recovers the dependence on the parabolic weight β of the moduli spaces of rank-2, degree-0 parabolic bundles over \mathbb{CP}^1 studied in [6]. The study of the dependence of the whole nilpotent cone on the weights β is new in the literature.

Going back to the study of hyperpolygon spaces and their cores we consider n circle bundles \tilde{V}_i over $X(\alpha)$ and their first Chern classes $c_i := c_1(\tilde{V}_i)$ as defined by Konno [25]. These classes generate the cohomology ring of the hyperpolygon space $X(\alpha)$ (see [25, 16, 18]), as well as the cohomology of all the core components. In particular, the restrictions $c_i|_{M(\alpha)}$ to the polygon space $M(\alpha)$ are the cohomology classes considered in [1] to determine the intersection ring of $M(\alpha)$. In this work we give explicit formulas for the computation of the intersection numbers of the restrictions of the classes c_i to the other core components.

For that we first prove a recursion formula in n which allows us to decrease the dimension of the spaces involved (see Theorem 5.1). Analog recursion formulas have already appeared for other moduli spaces in the work of Witten and Kontsevich (on moduli spaces of punctured curves) [27, 38, 39], of Weitsman (on moduli spaces of flat connections on 2-manifolds of genus g with n marked points) [37] and of Agapito and Godinho (on moduli spaces of polygons in \mathbb{R}^3) [1]. Based on our recursion relation we obtain explicit formulas for the intersection numbers of the core components U_S (see Theorems 5.2 and 5.3).

Finally, the isomorphism $\mathcal{H}(\beta) \leftrightarrow X(\alpha)$ allows us to consider circle bundles over $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ (the pullbacks of those constructed over $X(\alpha)$) and their Chern classes. We can then obtain explicit formulas for the intersection numbers of the restrictions of these Chern classes to the different components of the nilpotent cone of $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$, which allow us to determine their intersection rings.

For completion, we use the isomorphism \mathcal{J} together with the work of Harada-Proudfoot [16] and Hausel-Proudfoot [18] for hyperpolygon spaces to present the cohomology rings of $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ and of its nilpotent cone components (see Theorems 6.1 and 6.2).

Here is an outline of the contents of the paper. In Section 2, we review the basic definitions and facts about hyperpolygon spaces and moduli spaces of PHBs. In Section 3, we prove the existence of an

isomorphism between hyperpolygon spaces and moduli spaces $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ of stable rank-2, holomorphically trivial PHBs over \mathbb{CP}^1 with fixed determinant and trace-free Higgs field, which is S^1 -equivariant with respect to naturally defined circle actions on these two spaces. In Section 4, we adapt Thaddeus' work [35] on the variation of moduli spaces of PHBs to $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ and, in Section 4.1, we prove, via our isomorphism, that the corresponding hyperpolygon spaces $X(\alpha)$ undergo a Mukai transformation when the parameter α crosses a wall in the space of its admissible values. Moreover, in this section, we describe the changes suffered by the different core components as a result of this transformation. These changes easily translate to changes in the different components of the nilpotent cone of $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$. In Section 5, we construct circle bundles over $X(\alpha)$ and study the intersection numbers of their restrictions to each core component, giving examples of applications. In Section 6, we see that the formulas obtained for the core components of $X(\alpha)$ also apply to the nilpotent core components of the corresponding moduli space of PHBs $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$, thus determining their intersection ring. Finally, for completion, we give presentations of the cohomology rings of $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ and of each of its nilpotent cone components.

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2. PRELIMINARIES

2.1. Polygons and Hyperpolygons. Hyperpolygon spaces have been introduced by Konno [25] from a symplectic point of view, as the hyperkähler quotient analogue of polygon spaces, and from an algebro-geometric point of view, as GIT quotients.

Hyperpolygon and polygon spaces are respectively the hyperkähler and Kähler quiver varieties associated to star-shaped quivers \mathcal{Q} (Figure 1), that is, those with vertex set $I \cup \{0\}$, for $I := \{1, \dots, n\}$, and edge set $E = \{(i, 0) \mid i \in I\}$.

Consider the representation of a star-shaped quiver \mathcal{Q} obtained by taking vector spaces $V_i = \mathbb{C}$ for $i \in I$, and $V_0 = \mathbb{C}^2$. Then one gets the hyperkähler quiver variety associated with \mathcal{Q} by performing hyperkähler reduction on the cotangent bundle of the representation

space

$$E(\mathcal{Q}, V) = \bigoplus_{i \in I} \text{Hom}(V_i, V_0) \cong \mathbb{C}^{2n}$$

with respect to the action of the group $U(2) \times U(1)^n$ by conjugation. Since the diagonal circle in $U(2) \times U(1)^n$ acts trivially on the cotangent bundle of $E(\mathcal{Q}, V)$, one can consider the action of the quotient group

$$K := \left(U(2) \times U(1)^n \right) / U(1) = \left(SU(2) \times U(1)^n \right) / \mathbb{Z}_2,$$

where \mathbb{Z}_2 acts by multiplication of each factor by -1 . As $T^*\mathbb{C}^2 \cong (\mathbb{C}^2)^* \times \mathbb{C}^2$ can be identified with the space of quaternions, the cotangent bundle $T^*E(\mathcal{Q}, V) \cong T^*\mathbb{C}^{2n}$ has a natural hyperkähler structure (see for example [25, 22]). Moreover, the hyperkähler quotient of $T^*\mathbb{C}^{2n}$ by K can be explicitly described as follows. Let (p, q) be coordinates on $T^*\mathbb{C}^{2n}$, where $p = (p_1, \dots, p_n)$ is the n -tuple of row vectors $p_i = (a_i, b_i) \in \mathbb{C}^2$ and $q = (q_1, \dots, q_n)$ is the n -tuple of column vectors $q_i = \begin{pmatrix} c_i \\ d_i \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^2$. The action of K on $T^*\mathbb{C}^{2n}$ is given by

$$(p, q) \cdot [A; e_1, \dots, e_n] = \left((e_1^{-1} p_1 A, \dots, e_n^{-1} p_n A), (A^{-1} q_1 e_1, \dots, A^{-1} q_n e_n) \right).$$

This action is hyperhamiltonian with hyperkähler moment map [25]

$$\mu_{HK} := \mu_{\mathbb{R}} \oplus \mu_{\mathbb{C}} : T^*C^{2n} \rightarrow (\mathfrak{su}(2)^* \oplus (\mathbb{R}^n)^*) \oplus (\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})^* \oplus (\mathbb{C}^n)^*),$$

where the real moment map $\mu_{\mathbb{R}}$ is given by

(2.1)

$$\mu_{\mathbb{R}}(p, q) = \frac{\mathbf{i}}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (q_i q_i^* - p_i^* p_i)_0 \oplus \left(\frac{1}{2}(|q_1|^2 - |p_1|^2), \dots, \frac{1}{2}(|q_n|^2 - |p_n|^2) \right)$$

for $\mathbf{i} := \sqrt{-1}$, and the complex moment map $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}$ is given by

$$(2.2) \quad \mu_{\mathbb{C}}(p, q) = - \sum_{i=1}^n (q_i p_i)_0 \oplus (\mathbf{i} p_1 q_1, \dots, \mathbf{i} p_n q_n).$$

The hyperpolygon space $X(\alpha)$ is then defined to be the hyperkähler quotient

$$X(\alpha) = T^*\mathbb{C}^{2n} \mathbin{/\!\!/}_{\alpha} K := \left(\mu_{\mathbb{R}}^{-1}(0, \alpha) \cap \mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(0, 0) \right) / K$$

for $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$.

Remark 2.3. An element $(p, q) \in T^*\mathbb{C}^{2n}$ is in $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(0, 0)$ if and only if

$$p_i q_i = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{i=1}^n (q_i p_i)_0 = 0,$$

i.e. if and only if

$$(2.4) \quad a_i c_i + b_i d_i = 0$$

and

$$(2.5) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n a_i c_i - b_i d_i = 0, \quad \sum_{i=1}^n a_i d_i = 0, \quad \sum_{i=1}^n b_i c_i = 0.$$

Similarly, (p, q) is in $\mu_{\mathbb{R}}^{-1}(0, \alpha)$ if and only if

$$\frac{1}{2}(|q_i|^2 - |p_i|^2) = \alpha_i \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{i=1}^n (q_i q_i^* - p_i^* p_i)_0 = 0,$$

i.e. if and only if

$$(2.6) \quad |c_i|^2 + |d_i|^2 - |a_i|^2 - |b_i|^2 = 2\alpha_i$$

and

$$(2.7) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n |c_i|^2 - |a_i|^2 + |b_i|^2 - |d_i|^2 = 0, \quad \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \bar{b}_i - \bar{c}_i d_i = 0.$$

An element $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$ is said to be *generic* if and only if

$$(2.8) \quad \varepsilon_S(\alpha) := \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i - \sum_{i \in S^c} \alpha_i \neq 0$$

for every index set $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$. For a generic α , the hyperpolygon space $X(\alpha)$ is a non-empty smooth manifold of complex dimension $2(n-3)$.

On the other hand, one defines polygon spaces $M(\alpha)$ using the quiver \mathcal{Q} of Figure 1 and the collection of vector spaces $V_i = \mathbb{C}$ and $V_0 = \mathbb{C}^2$ by performing symplectic reduction on $E(\mathcal{Q}, V) = \mathbb{C}^{2n}$ by the action of K . More precisely, one considers the Hamiltonian action of K on \mathbb{C}^{2n} given by

$$q \cdot [A; e_1, \dots, e_n] = (A^{-1} q_1 e_1, \dots, A^{-1} q_n e_n),$$

with moment map

$$(2.9) \quad \begin{aligned} \mu : \mathbb{C}^{2n} &\rightarrow \mathfrak{su}(2)^* \oplus (\mathfrak{u}(1)^n)^* \\ q &\mapsto \sum_{i=1}^n (q_i q_i^*)_0 \oplus \left(\frac{1}{2} |q_1|^2, \dots, \frac{1}{2} |q_n|^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

Then for $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$,

$$M(\alpha) := \mathbb{C}^{2n} //_{(0, \alpha)} K = \mu^{-1}(\alpha) / K.$$

Note that $M(\alpha)$ lies inside the hyperpolygon space $X(\alpha)$ as the locus of points $[p, q]$ with $p = 0$.

Performing reduction in stages one obtains the polygonal description of $M(\alpha)$. In fact, the symplectic reduction of \mathbb{C}^{2n} by $U(1)^n$ (or, more precisely, by the maximal subtorus $T^n := (Id \oplus U(1)^n)/\mathbb{Z}_2$ in K) at the α -level set is the product of n spheres of radii $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ and the residual action of $K/T^n \cong SO(3)$ on this product is just the standard action by rotation with moment map

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{SO(3)} : \prod_{i=1}^n S_{\alpha_i}^2 &\rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \\ (v_1, \dots, v_n) &\mapsto v_1 + \dots + v_n. \end{aligned}$$

Performing the second step of reduction one gets

$$M(\alpha) = \prod S_{\alpha_i}^2 //_0 SO(3) = \mu_{SO(3)}^{-1}(0)/SO(3).$$

The level set $\mu_{SO(3)}^{-1}(0)$ is then the set of all closed polygons in \mathbb{R}^3 with n edges v_1, \dots, v_n of lengths $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ respectively and the quotient $M(\alpha)$ is the moduli space of all such polygons modulo rigid motions in \mathbb{R}^3 . Note that this space is empty if $\alpha_i > \sum_{j \neq i} \alpha_j$ for some $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ since, in this case, the closing condition $\sum_{i=1}^n v_i = 0$ is not verified for any $v \in \prod S_{\alpha_i}^2$.

If α is generic the polygon space $M(\alpha)$ is a smooth manifold of complex dimension $n - 3$ (when not empty). Here generic has a geometric interpretation. It means that no element in $M(\alpha)$ is represented by a polygon contained in a line. In fact, if such a polygon existed, the $SO(3)$ -action would not be free since the stabilizer of this polygon would be the circle of rotations around the corresponding line. The quotient $M(\alpha)$ would then have a singularity.

Reduction in stages can also be performed in the opposite order. The quotient $C^{2n} //_0 SU(2)$ is then identified with the Grassmannian $Gr(2, n)$ of 2-planes in \mathbb{C}^n , (see [19] for details). The remaining $U(1)^n$ -action has moment map

$$(2.10) \quad \begin{aligned} \mu_{U(1)^n} : Gr(2, n) &\longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \\ q &\mapsto \frac{1}{2} \left(|q_1|^2, \dots, |q_n|^2 \right) \end{aligned}$$

and the polygon space $M(\alpha)$ is the symplectic quotient $Gr(2, n) //_{\alpha} U(1)^n$.

Hyperpolygon spaces can be described from an algebro-geometric point of view as GIT quotients. For that we need the stability criterion developed by Nakajima [33, 31] for quiver varieties and adapted by Konno [25] to hyperpolygon spaces.

Let α be generic. A set $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ is called *short* if

$$(2.11) \quad \varepsilon_S(\alpha) < 0$$

and *long* otherwise. Given $(p, q) \in T^*\mathbb{C}^{2n}$ and a set $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$, we say that S is *straight* at (p, q) if q_i is proportional to q_j for all $i, j \in S$.

Theorem 2.1. [25] *Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$ be generic. A point $(p, q) \in T^*\mathbb{C}^{2n}$ is α -stable if and only if the following two conditions hold:*

- (i) $q_i \neq 0$ for all i , and
- (ii) *if $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ is straight at (p, q) and $p_j = 0$ for all $j \in S^c$, then S is short.*

Remark 2.12. Note that it is enough to verify (ii) for all maximal straight sets, that is for those that are not contained in any other straight set at (p, q) .

Let us denote by $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(0)^{\alpha-st}$ the set of points in $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(0)$ that are α -stable and let $K^{\mathbb{C}} := (SL(2, \mathbb{C}) \times (\mathbb{C}^*)^n)/\mathbb{Z}_2$ be the complexification of K .

Proposition 2.13. [25] *Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$ be generic. Then*

$$\mu_{HK}^{-1}((0, \alpha), (0, 0)) \subset \mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(0)^{\alpha-st}$$

and there exists a natural bijection

$$\iota : \mu_{HK}^{-1}((0, \alpha), (0, 0))/K \longrightarrow \mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(0)^{\alpha-st}/K^{\mathbb{C}}.$$

It follows that

$$X(\alpha) = \mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(0)^{\alpha-st}/K^{\mathbb{C}}.$$

As in [16] we denote the elements in $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(0)^{\alpha-st}/K^{\mathbb{C}}$ by $[p, q]_{\alpha-st}$, and by $[p, q]_{\mathbb{R}}$ the elements in $\mu_{HK}^{-1}((0, \alpha), (0, 0))/K$ when we need to make explicit use of one of the two constructions. In all other cases, we will simply write $[p, q]$ for a hyperpolygon in $X(\alpha)$.

2.1.1. The Core. Let us assume throughout this section that α is generic. The core of a hyperpolygon space $X(\alpha)$ has been studied in detail in [25, 16], and here we give a brief overview of the results therein that will be relevant to our study.

Consider the S^1 -action on $X(\alpha)$ defined by

$$(2.14) \quad \lambda \cdot [p, q] = [\lambda p, q].$$

This action is Hamiltonian with respect to symplectic structure $\omega_{\mathbb{R}}$ and the associated moment map $\phi : X(\alpha) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, given by

$$(2.15) \quad \phi([p, q]_{\mathbb{R}}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n |p_i|^2,$$

is a Morse–Bott function. Following Konno[25] consider $\mathcal{S}(\alpha)$, the collection of short sets for α , and its subset

$$\mathcal{S}'(\alpha) := \{S \subset \{1, \dots, n\} \mid S \text{ is } \alpha\text{-short}, |S| \geq 2\}.$$

Then,

Theorem 2.2. [25] *The fixed point set for the S^1 -action (2.14) is*

$$X(\alpha)^{S^1} = M(\alpha) \cup \bigcup_{S \in \mathcal{S}'(\alpha)} X_S$$

where, for each element of $\mathcal{S}'(\alpha)$,

$$X_S := \{[p, q] \in X(\alpha) \mid S \text{ and } S^c \text{ are straight, } p_j = 0 \text{ for all } j \in S^c\}.$$

Moreover, X_S is diffeomorphic to $\mathbb{CP}^{|S|-2}$ and has index $2(n-1-|S|)$.

For $S \in \mathcal{S}'(\alpha)$ let U_S be the closure of

$$\{[p, q] \in X(\alpha) \mid \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} [\lambda p, q] \in X_S\}.$$

Then the *core* \mathfrak{L}_α of $X(\alpha)$ is defined as

$$\mathfrak{L}_\alpha := M(\alpha) \cup \bigcup_{S \in \mathcal{S}'(\alpha)} U_S$$

and is a deformation retraction of $X(\alpha)$. In fact U_S is the closure of the flow-down set for the critical component X_S and the polygon space (when non-empty) is the minimal set of ϕ . The core components U_S are smooth compact submanifolds of complex dimension $n-3$, and can equivalently be described as

$$(2.16) \quad U_S = \{[p, q] \mid S \text{ is straight and } p_j = 0 \text{ for all } j \in S^c\}$$

(see [16] for details). Moreover, they can be nicely described as moduli spaces of pairs of polygons in \mathbb{R}^3 (see [16]). For that, given a short set S in $\mathcal{S}'(\alpha)$, and a point $[p, q]_{\mathbb{R}} \in U_S$, define a $(n+1)$ -tuple of vectors in \mathbb{R}^3 , (u_i, v_j, w) , $i \in S$, $j \in S^c$ as

$$u_i = q_i p_i + p_i^* q_i^*, \quad \forall i \in S$$

$$v_j = (q_j q_j^*)_0, \quad \forall j \in S^c$$

$$w = \sum_{i \in S} (q_i q_i^*)_0 - (p_i^* p_i)_0,$$

where we make the usual identification $\mathbf{i} \cdot \mathfrak{su}(2) \cong \mathfrak{su}(2)^* \cong \mathbb{R}^3$. These $n+1$ vectors define two polygons: one in \mathbb{R}^3 with edges w and v_j , with

$j \in S^c$, and one lying in the orthogonal plane to w with edges u_i for $i \in S$. Note that $\|v_j\| = \alpha_j$ and that

$$\sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i \leq \|w\| \leq \sum_{j \in S^c} \alpha_j,$$

where the variations in $\|w\|$ are determined by the lengths of the vectors u_i . The lower bound $\|w\| = \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i$ is reached when $u_i = 0$ for all i , meaning that the planar polygon collapses to a point and one obtains a polygon in \mathbb{R}^3 of edges w and $\{v_j \mid j \in S^c\}$. In this case, the point $[p, q]_{\mathbb{R}}$ defining this polygon is in the intersection $U_S \cap M(\alpha)$. When the upper bound $\|w\| = \sum_{j \in S^c} \alpha_j$ is reached, the spatial polygon is forced to be in a line and the planar polygon has maximal perimeter.

Theorem 2.3. [16] *For any $S \in \mathcal{S}'(\alpha)$ the associated core component U_S is homeomorphic to the moduli space \mathcal{Z} of $n + 1$ of vectors*

$$\{u_i, v_j, w \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid i \in S, j \in S^c\}$$

taken up to rotation, satisfying the conditions:

- 1) $w + \sum_{j \in S^c} v_j = 0$;
- 2) $\sum_{i \in S} u_i = 0$;
- 3) $u_i \cdot w = 0$ for all $i \in S$;
- 4) $\|v_j\| = \alpha_j$ for all $j \in S^c$;
- 5) $\|w\| = \sum_{i \in S} \sqrt{\alpha_i^2 + \|u_i\|^2}$.

If the polygon space $M(\alpha)$ is non empty, then all the core components U_S intersect $M(\alpha)$. More precisely, for any $S \in \mathcal{S}'(\alpha)$,

$$U_S \cap M(\alpha) \cong M_S(\alpha),$$

where

(2.17)

$$M_S(\alpha) := \left\{ v \in \prod_{i=1}^n S_{\alpha_i}^2 \mid \sum_{i=1}^n v_i = 0, v_i \text{ proportional to } v_j \forall i, j \in S \right\} / SO(3).$$

This intersection is a $(|S^c| - 2)$ -dimensional submanifold of $M(\alpha)$ that can be identified with the moduli space of polygons in \mathbb{R}^3 with $|S^c| + 1$ edges of lengths $\sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i$ and α_j , for $j \in S^c$.

The intersection of any other two core components U_S and U_T , with $S, T \in \mathcal{S}'(\alpha)$, depends upon the intersection of the short sets S and T .

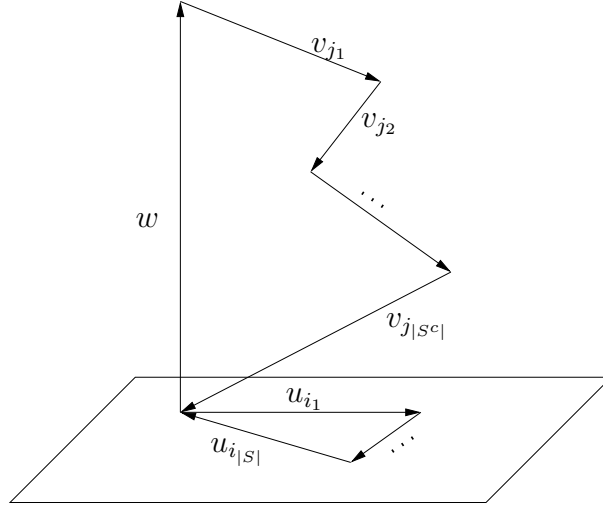


FIGURE 2. A hyperpolygon in the core component U_S described as a pair of a spacial polygon and a planar one (where $S = \{i_1, \dots, i_{|S|}\}$ and $S^c = \{j_1, \dots, j_{|S^c|}\}$).

- If $S \cap T = \emptyset$ then $U_S \cap U_T = M_S(\alpha) \cap M_T(\alpha)$. (Note that this intersection might be empty.)
- If $S \cap T \neq \emptyset$ and $S \cup T$ is long, then $U_S \cap U_T = \emptyset$.
- If $S \cap T \neq \emptyset$ and $S \cup T$ is short, then

$$U_S \cap U_T = \{[p, q] \mid S \cup T \text{ straight}, p_j = 0 \text{ for all } j \in (S \cap T)^c\} \subseteq U_{S \cup T}.$$

Finally, if $S \subset T$, the critical submanifold X_T intersects U_S , and $U_S \cap X_T \cong \mathbb{CP}^{|S|-2}$ (cf. [16]). In particular,

Proposition 2.18. *If $S \in \mathcal{S}'(\alpha)$ is maximal with respect to inclusion then*

$$U_S \cong \mathbb{CP}^{n-3}.$$

This was conjectured in [16], and is a simple consequence of the following result of Delzant.

Theorem 2.4. [9] *Let (M, ω) be a compact symplectic $2n$ -dimensional manifold equipped with a Hamiltonian S^1 -action with moment map ϕ . If ϕ has only two critical values, one of which is non-degenerate, then M is isomorphic to $(\mathbb{CP}^n, \lambda\omega_{FS})$, where $\lambda\omega_{FS}$ is some multiple of the Fubini–Study symplectic form.*

Proof. (Proposition 2.18) Since S is maximal with respect to inclusion, the core component U_S is just the closure of the flow down set of $X_S \cong \mathbb{CP}^{|S|-2}$.

If $|S| = n - 1$ then, assuming without loss of generality that $S = \{1, \dots, n - 1\}$, we have

$$\sum_S \alpha_i < \alpha_n$$

(S is short), meaning that the polygon space $M_S(\alpha)$ is empty. Therefore $U_S = X_S \cong \mathbb{CP}^{n-3}$.

If $|S| < n - 1$ then X_S has index $2(n - 1 - |S|)$ and $\phi(X_S)$ is a non-degenerate critical value of the restriction of ϕ to U_S . The only other critical value of ϕ on U_S is its minimum value $\phi(M(\alpha)) = 0$. We can then apply Theorem 2.4 to U_S equipped with the restriction of the S^1 -action on $X(\alpha)$ to conclude the proof. \square

Example 1. When $n = 4$ there are four critical components of the moment map ϕ for any generic choice of α . In fact, since either S or S^c is short, there are always exactly three short sets (S_1, S_2 and S_3) of cardinality 2 in $\mathcal{S}'(\alpha)$. Moreover, the polygon space $M(\alpha)$ is empty if and only if there is a short set S_0 of cardinality 3 in $\mathcal{S}'(\alpha)$. Note that in this case there is exactly one such set in $\mathcal{S}'(\alpha)$. The critical components X_{S_i} , $i = 1, 2, 3$, are isolated points of index 2, while X_{S_0} and $M(\alpha)$, when nonempty, are diffeomorphic to \mathbb{CP}^1 and have index 0. The core components U_{S_i} , for $i = 1, 2, 3$, are three copies of \mathbb{CP}^1 intersecting the minimal component in three distinct points. Consequently, the core \mathfrak{L}_α is a union of 4 spheres arranged in a D_4 configuration [12] as in Figure 3.

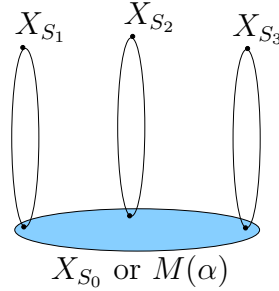


FIGURE 3. Core of $X(\alpha)$ when $n = 4$: four spheres arranged in a D_4 configuration.

2.1.2. Walls. We now set some notation and basic definitions relative to the wall-crossing analysis that will be carried out in Section 4. Moreover, we summarize the wall-crossing behavior for polygon spaces which is described in detail in [29].

Let $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{R}_+^n$ be the set of generic values of α . If $\alpha \notin \Gamma$ then there exists an index set $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ for which $\varepsilon_S(\alpha) = 0$. Hence Γ is the

complement of the union of finitely many walls

$$W_S := \{\alpha \in \mathbb{R}_+^n \mid \varepsilon_S(\alpha) = 0\}$$

with $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$. The set S will be called the *discrete data* of W_S .

Note that an index set S and its complement S^c define the same wall. Moreover, a wall W_S separates two adjacent connected components of Γ , called *chambers*, say Δ^+ and Δ^- , such that $\varepsilon_S(\alpha^+) > 0$ for every $\alpha^+ \in \Delta^+$ and $\varepsilon_S(\alpha^-) < 0$ for every $\alpha^- \in \Delta^-$. Consequently, S is maximal short (with respect to inclusion) for values of α^- in Δ^- and long for those in Δ^+ .

The collection of short sets $\mathcal{S}(\alpha)$ completely determines the chamber of α and, since only one of S and S^c is short, there is a 1-1 correspondence between the elements of $\mathcal{S}(\alpha)$ and the walls in \mathbb{R}_+^n .

Remark 2.19. The image

$$\Xi := \mu_{U(1)^n}(Gr(2, n)) = \left\{ (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbb{R}_+^n \mid 0 \leq \alpha_i \leq \frac{1}{2} \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i = 1 \right\}$$

of the moment map defined in (2.10) is formed by values of α for which $M(\alpha)$ is nonempty. Since $M(\alpha)$ is diffeomorphic to $M(\lambda\alpha)$ for every $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}_+$, one can easily see that $M(\alpha) \neq \emptyset$ if and only if α is in the cone C_Ξ over Ξ . The walls W_S with $|S| = 1$ or $|S| = n - 1$ form the boundary of C_Ξ and so are called *vanishing walls*. (When α crosses one of these walls the whole space $M(\alpha)$ vanishes.) The chambers in $\mathbb{R}_+^n \setminus C_\Xi$ are called *null chambers* and each of these is separated from C_Ξ by a unique vanishing wall.

By the Duistermaat–Heckman Theorem, $M(\alpha^+)$ and $M(\alpha^-)$ are diffeomorphic for α^+ and α^- in the same chamber but the diffeotype of $M(\alpha^\pm)$ changes if α^+ and α^- are in different chambers. In particular, if α^+ and α^- lie in opposite sides of a single wall W_S , then $M(\alpha^+)$ and $M(\alpha^-)$ are related by a blow up followed by a blow down. This is a classical result for reduced spaces (see, for example [15, 8]) and has been worked out in detail for the case of polygon spaces in [29], where the submanifolds involved in the birational transformation are characterized in terms of lower dimensional polygon spaces. More precisely, these submanifolds are the intersections

$$M_S(\alpha^+) = U_S \cap M(\alpha^+) \quad \text{and} \quad M_S(\alpha^-) = U_S \cap M(\alpha^-)$$

defined in (2.17).

Theorem 2.5. [29] *If Δ^+ and Δ^- are two chambers lying in opposite sides of a wall W_S and S is short for $\alpha^- \in \Delta^-$ and long for $\alpha^+ \in \Delta^+$, then $M(\alpha^+)$ is obtained from $M(\alpha^-)$ by a blow up along $M_S(\alpha^-) \cong$*

$\mathbb{CP}^{|S^c|-2}$ followed by a blow down of the projectivized normal bundle of $M_{S^c}(\alpha^+) \cong \mathbb{CP}^{|S|-2}$.

The situation for hyperpolygon spaces is quite different. The diffeotype of $X(\alpha)$ does not depend on the value $((\alpha, 0)(0, 0))$ of the hyperkähler moment map as long as α is generic (see [25]). Nevertheless, if α^+ and α^- are in different chambers of Γ the hyperkähler structures on $X(\alpha^\pm)$ are not the same. Moreover, if we equip these spaces with the S^1 -action defined in (2.14) we see that $X(\alpha^+)$ and $X(\alpha^-)$ are not isomorphic as Hamiltonian S^1 -spaces since their cores $\mathfrak{L}_{\alpha^\pm}$ are different. The transformations suffered by $X(\alpha^\pm)$ and its core will be studied in Section 4.1.

Another difference in the behavior of hyperpolygon spaces is that, even though $M(\alpha) = \emptyset$ for every value of α in a null chamber, the corresponding hyperpolygon space $X(\alpha)$ is always non empty as we can see in Example 2.

Example 2. Let $\alpha = (10, 1, 1, 2, 3)$ be in the null chamber of Γ determined by the vanishing wall $W_{\{1\}}$. The polygon space $M(\alpha)$ is empty since $\alpha_1 > \sum_{i=2}^5 \alpha_i$. However, the hyperpolygon space $X(\alpha) \neq \emptyset$. For example, taking the short set $S = \{4, 5\}$, we see that the core component $U_{\{4,5\}} \subset X(\alpha)$ is non empty. Indeed, it can be identified with the moduli space of pairs of polygons as depicted in Figure 4 (cf. Theorem 2.3). The spatial polygon has edges w, v_1, v_2, v_3 respectively of lengths

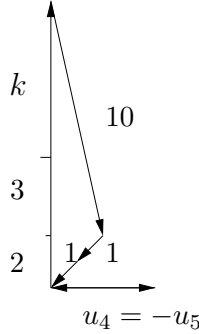


FIGURE 4. A hyperpolygon in the core component $U_{\{4,5\}}$ for $\alpha = (10, 1, 1, 2, 3)$.

$5 + k, 10, 1, 1$ with $k \in [3, 7]$. (For $k > 7$ or $k < 3$ the polygon would not close.) The planar polygon lies on a line and has edges u_4, u_5 with $u_4 = -u_5$ satisfying

$$(2.20) \quad 5 + k = \sqrt{4 + \|u_4\|^2} + \sqrt{9 + \|u_4\|^2}.$$

Any choice of $\|u_4\|$ satisfying (2.20) for some $k \in [3, 7]$ determines a family of hyperpolygons in $U_{\{4,5\}}$ that is isomorphic to the polygon space $M(\|w\|, 10, 1, 1)$. For example, choosing $\|u_4\| = 4$, we get that $U_{\{4,5\}}$ contains the non-empty polygon space $M(5 + 2\sqrt{5}, 10, 1, 1)$.

2.2. Moduli spaces of parabolic Higgs bundles. Let Σ be a connected smooth projective algebraic curve of genus g with n distinguished marked points x_1, \dots, x_n and let D be the divisor $x_1 + \dots + x_n$. A *parabolic structure* on a holomorphic bundle $E \rightarrow \Sigma$ consists of weighted flags

$$\begin{aligned} E_x &= E_{x,1} \supset \dots \supset E_{x,s_x} \supset 0, \\ 0 &\leq \beta_1(x) < \dots < \beta_{s_x}(x) < 1 \end{aligned}$$

over each point $x \in D$. Given two parabolic bundles E, F over Σ with parabolic structures at x_1, \dots, x_n and weights $\beta_i^E(x)$ and $\beta_j^F(x)$ respectively, a holomorphic map $\phi : E \rightarrow F$ is called *parabolic* if $\phi(E_{x,i}) \subset F_{x,j+1}$ whenever $\beta_i^E(x) > \beta_j^F(x)$ and *strongly parabolic* if $\phi(E_{x,i}) \subset F_{x,j+1}$ whenever $\beta_i^E(x) \geq \beta_j^F(x)$.

Let $ParHom(E, F)$ and $SParHom(E, F)$ be the subsheaves of $Hom(E, F)$ formed by the parabolic and strongly parabolic morphisms between E and F , respectively. In particular, $ParEnd(E) := ParHom(E, E)$ and $SParEnd(E) := SParHom(E, E)$.

Considering $m_i(x) := \dim E_{x,i} - \dim E_{x,i+1}$, the *multiplicity* of the weight $\beta_i(x)$, one defines the *parabolic degree* $pdeg(E)$ and *parabolic slope* $\mu(E)$ of a parabolic bundle E as

$$pdeg(E) = \deg(E) + \sum_{x \in D} \sum_{i=1}^{s_x} m_i(x) \beta_i(x),$$

and

$$\mu(E) = \frac{pdeg(E)}{\text{rank}(E)}.$$

A subbundle F of a parabolic bundle E can be given a parabolic structure by intersecting the flags with the fibers F_x , and discarding any subspace $E_{x,j} \cap F_x$ which coincides with $E_{x,j+1} \cap F_x$. The weights are assigned accordingly. Similarly, the quotient E/F can be given a parabolic structure by projecting the flags to E_x/F_x . The weights of E/F are precisely those discarded for F .

A parabolic bundle E is said to be *semistable* if $\mu(F) \leq \mu(E)$ for all proper parabolic subbundles F of E and *stable* if the inequality is always strict.

Example 3. We will now consider a very simple example which we will need later. Let E be a rank-two parabolic bundle over Σ with parabolic structure

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{C}^2 &= E_{x,1} \supset E_{x,2} = \mathbb{C} \supset 0, \\ 0 &\leq \beta_1(x) < \beta_2(x) < 1\end{aligned}$$

over each point $x \in D$. Then

$$\text{pdeg}(E) = \deg(E) + \sum_{x \in D}^n (\beta_1(x) + \beta_2(x)).$$

If L is a parabolic line subbundle of E , its parabolic structure is given by the trivial flag over each point of D

$$\mathbb{C} = L_{x,1} \supset 0,$$

with weights

$$\beta^L(x) = \begin{cases} \beta_1(x), & \text{if } L_x \cap E_{x,2} = \{0\}, \\ \beta_2(x), & \text{if } L_x \cap E_{x,2} = \mathbb{C}. \end{cases}$$

Then, assuming $D = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$,

$$\text{pdeg}(L) = \deg(L) + \sum_{i \in S_L} \beta_2(x_i) + \sum_{i \in S_L^c} \beta_1(x_i),$$

where $S_L := \{i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \mid \beta^L(x_i) = \beta_2(x_i)\}$. (Note that the quotient bundle E/L is also a parabolic line bundle over Σ with parabolic structure given by the trivial flag over each point of D weighted by the weights of E not used in L .)

Hence, the parabolic bundle E is stable if and only if its parabolic line subbundles L satisfy

$$(2.21) \quad \deg E - 2 \deg(L) > \sum_{i \in S_L} (\beta_2(x_i) - \beta_1(x_i)) - \sum_{i \in S_L^c} (\beta_2(x_i) - \beta_1(x_i)).$$

Let K_Σ denote the canonical bundle over Σ (i.e. the bundle of holomorphic 1-forms in Σ), let $\mathcal{O}_\Sigma(D)$ be the line bundle over Σ associated to the divisor D and give $E \otimes K_\Sigma(D) := E \otimes K \otimes \mathcal{O}_\Sigma(D)$ the obvious parabolic structure. A *parabolic Higgs bundle* or PHB is a pair $\mathbf{E} := (E, \Phi)$, where E is a parabolic bundle and

$$\Phi \in H^0(\Sigma, S\text{ParEnd}(E) \otimes K_\Sigma(D))$$

is called an *Higgs field* on E . Note that Φ is a meromorphic, endomorphism-valued one-form with simple poles along D , whose residue at x is nilpotent with respect to the flag, i.e.

$$(\text{Res}_x \Phi)(E_{x,i}) \subset E_{x,i+1},$$

for all $i = 1, \dots, s_x$ and $x \in D$. The definitions of stability and semistability are extended to Higgs bundles as expected. A PHB $\mathbf{E} = (E, \Phi)$ is *stable* if $\mu(F) < \mu(E)$ for all proper parabolic subbundles $F \subset E$ which are preserved by Φ and similarly for *semistability*, where the strict inequality is substituted by the weak inequality.

The usual properties of stable bundles also apply to stable parabolic Higgs bundles. For instance, if \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{F} are two stable PHBs then there are no parabolic maps between them unless they are isomorphic [26] (in which case they must have the same parabolic slope) and the only parabolic endomorphisms of a stable parabolic Higgs bundle are the scalar multiples of the identity.

We will say that a vector β of weights $\beta_i(x_j)$ is *generic* when every semistable parabolic Higgs bundle is stable (i.e. if there are no properly semistable Higgs bundles). Fixing a generic β and the topological invariants $r = \text{rank}(E)$ and $d = \text{deg}(E)$, the moduli space $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d}$ of β -stable, rank- r , degree- d parabolic Higgs bundles was constructed by Yokogawa in [41] using GIT. In particular, he shows that this space is a smooth irreducible complex variety of dimension

$$\dim \mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d} = 2(g-1)r^2 + 2 + \sum_{i=1}^n \left(r^2 - \sum_{j=1}^{s_{x_i}} m_j(x_i)^2 \right),$$

containing the cotangent bundle of the moduli space of stable parabolic bundles. For that, he worked out a deformation theory for PHBs as described next (see also [13] for details).

2.2.1. Deformation Theory. Given PHBs $\mathbf{E} = (E, \Phi)$ and $\mathbf{F} = (F, \Psi)$ one defines a complex of sheaves

$$\begin{aligned} C^\bullet(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{F}) : \text{ParHom}(E, F) &\longrightarrow \text{SParHom}(E, F) \otimes K_\Sigma(D) \\ f &\mapsto (f \otimes 1)\Phi - \Psi f, \end{aligned}$$

and write $C^\bullet(\mathbf{E}) := C^\bullet(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{E})$. Then the following proposition holds (see for instance [35] for a detailed proof).

Proposition 2.22. (1) *The space of infinitesimal deformations of a PHB \mathbf{E} is isomorphic to the first hypercohomology group of the complex $C^\bullet(\mathbf{E})$. Consequently the tangent space to $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d}$ at a point \mathbf{E} is isomorphic to $\mathbb{H}^1(C^\bullet(E))$.*

- (2) The space of homomorphisms between PHBs \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{F} is isomorphic to the hypercohomology group $\mathbb{H}^0(C^\bullet(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{F}))$.
- (3) The space of extensions $0 \rightarrow \mathbf{E} \rightarrow \mathbf{F} \rightarrow \mathbf{G} \rightarrow 0$ of PHBs \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{G} is isomorphic to the hypercohomology group $\mathbb{H}^1(C^\bullet(\mathbf{G}, \mathbf{E}))$.
- (4) There is a long exact sequence

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow \mathbb{H}^0(C^\bullet(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{F})) \rightarrow H^0(\text{ParHom}(E, F)) \rightarrow H^0(\text{SParHom}(E, F) \otimes K_\Sigma(D)) \rightarrow \\ \rightarrow \mathbb{H}^1(C^\bullet(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{F})) \rightarrow H^1(\text{ParHom}(E, F)) \rightarrow H^1(\text{SParHom}(E, F) \otimes K_\Sigma(D)) \rightarrow \\ \rightarrow \mathbb{H}^2(C^\bullet(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{F})) \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, we have the following duality result whose proof can be found in [13].

Proposition 2.23. *If \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{F} are PHBs then there exists a natural isomorphism*

$$\mathbb{H}^i(C^\bullet(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{F})) \cong \mathbb{H}^{2-i}(C^\bullet(\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{E}))^*.$$

In particular for any stable PHB \mathbf{E} there is a natural isomorphism $T_{\mathbf{E}}\mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d} \cong T_{\mathbf{E}}^\mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d}$.*

2.2.2. Fixed determinant. If $\mathbf{E} \in \mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d}$ and E is the underlying parabolic bundle, its determinant $\Lambda^r E$ is a parabolic line bundle of degree

$$\tilde{d} = d + \sum_{i=1}^n \left[\sum_j m_j(x_i) \beta_j(x_i) \right]$$

and weight $\sum_j m_j(x) \beta_j(x) - \left[\sum_j m_j(x) \beta_j(x) \right]$, at any $x \in D$, where the square brackets denote the integer part. For fixed weights the moduli space of rank-1 parabolic Higgs bundles of degree \tilde{d} is naturally identified with the total space of the cotangent bundle to the Jacobian of degree- \tilde{d} line bundles on Σ . Hence one has the map

$$(2.24) \quad \begin{aligned} \det : \mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d} &\rightarrow T^* \text{Jac}^{\tilde{d}}(\Sigma), \\ (E, \Phi) &\mapsto (\Lambda^r E, \text{Tr } \Phi). \end{aligned}$$

Fixing Λ , a line bundle of degree \tilde{d} , Konno [26] defines the moduli space $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d}^{0,\Lambda}$ of stable parabolic Higgs bundles with fixed determinant Λ and trace-free Higgs field as the fibre of the map (2.24) over $(\Lambda, 0)$ i.e.

$$\mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d}^{0,\Lambda} := \det^{-1}(\Lambda, 0).$$

In particular, he shows that, for any Λ and generic β , this space is a smooth, hyperkähler manifold of complex dimension

$$\dim \mathcal{N}_{\beta,r,d}^{0,\Lambda} = 2(g-1)(r^2-1) + \sum_{i=1}^n \left(r^2 - \sum_{j=1}^{s_{x_i}} m_j(x_i)^2 \right).$$

The deformation theory of $\mathbf{E} = (E, \Phi)$ in $\mathcal{N}_{\beta, r, d}^{0, \Lambda}$ is determined by the complex

$$\begin{aligned} C_0^\bullet(\mathbf{E}) : \text{ParEnd}_0(E) &\longrightarrow \text{SParEnd}_0(E) \otimes K_\Sigma(D) \\ f &\mapsto (f \otimes 1)\Phi - \Phi f, \end{aligned}$$

where the subscript 0 indicates trace 0.

We will now give a brief description of $\mathcal{N}_{\beta, r, d}^{0, \Lambda}$ following [26] and [13]. Given a PHB \mathbf{E} of rank r with underlying topological bundle E , one says that a local frame $\{e_1, \dots, e_r\}$ around x *preserves the flag* at x if $E_{x, i}$ is spanned by the vectors $\{e_{M_i+1}(x), \dots, e_r(x)\}$, where $M_i = \sum_{k \leq i} m_k$. Then one fixes a hermitian metric h on E which is smooth in $\Sigma \setminus D$ and whose behavior around the points in D is as follows: if z is a centered local coordinate around x (i.e. such that $z(x) = 0$), then one requires h to have the form

$$(2.25) \quad h = \begin{pmatrix} |z|^{2\lambda_1} & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & |z|^{2\lambda_r} \end{pmatrix}$$

with respect to some local frame around x which preserves the flag at x . Let us denote by \mathcal{J} the affine space of holomorphic structures on E and by \mathcal{A} the space of associated h -unitary connections. Note that the unitary connection A associated to some element $\bar{\delta}_A$ of \mathcal{J} via the hermitian metric h is singular at the punctures. Indeed, writing $z = \rho e^{i\theta}$ and considering the local frame $\{e_i\}$ used in (2.25), the connection A has the form

$$(2.26) \quad d_A = d + \mathbf{i} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_r \end{pmatrix} d\theta + A'$$

with respect to the local frame $\{e_i/|z|^{\lambda_i}\}$, where A' is regular. The space of trace-free Higgs fields on a parabolic bundle E is

$$\Omega := \Omega^{1,0}(\text{SParEnd}_0(E) \otimes K_\Sigma(D)).$$

Let $\mathcal{G}_{\mathbb{C}}$ denote the group of complex parabolic gauge transformations (i.e. the group of smooth determinant-1 bundle automorphisms of E which preserve the flag structure) and let \mathcal{G} denote the subgroup of h -unitary parabolic gauge transformations. Using the weighted Sobolev norms defined by Biquard [5] on the above spaces (see [5] and [26] for details) let us denote by \mathcal{J}^p , Ω^p , \mathcal{G}^p and $\mathcal{G}_{\mathbb{C}}^p$ the corresponding Sobolev completions. Following Konno we consider the space

$$\mathcal{H} := \{(\bar{\delta}_A, \Phi) \in \mathcal{J} \times \Omega \mid \bar{\delta}_A \Phi = 0\}$$

and the corresponding subspace \mathcal{H}^p of $\mathcal{J}^p \times \Omega^p$. The gauge group $\mathcal{G}_{\mathbb{C}}$ acts on \mathcal{H} by conjugation, i.e. on the residues $N_i := \text{Res}_{x_i} \Phi$ the $\mathcal{G}_{\mathbb{C}}$ -action is $g^{-1} N_i g$ for any $g \in \mathcal{G}_{\mathbb{C}}$ (cf. [26]). Let $F(A)^0$ be the trace-free part of the curvature of the h -unitary connection corresponding to $\bar{\delta}_A$. Then we consider the moduli space \mathcal{E}^0 defined as the subspace of \mathcal{H}^p satisfying *Hitchin's equation*

$$\mathcal{E}^0 := \{(\bar{\delta}_A, \Phi) \in \mathcal{H}^p \mid F(A)^0 + [\Phi, \Phi^*] = 0\} / \mathcal{G}^p.$$

Taking the usual definition of semi-stability on \mathcal{H} , Konno shows in [26] that, for some $p > 1$,

$$(2.27) \quad \mathcal{N}_{\beta, r, d}^{0, \Lambda} := \mathcal{H}_{ss} / \mathcal{G}_{\mathbb{C}} \cong \mathcal{E}^0$$

and this second quotient endows $\mathcal{N}_{\beta, r, d}^{0, \Lambda}$ with a hyperkähler structure.

There is a natural circle action on the moduli space $\mathcal{N}_{\beta, r, d}^{0, \Lambda}$ given by

$$(2.28) \quad e^{i\theta} \cdot (E, \Phi) = (E, e^{i\theta} \Phi)$$

which is respected by the identification in (2.27). This action is Hamiltonian with respect to the symplectic structure of $\mathcal{N}_{\beta, r, d}^{0, \Lambda}$ compatible with the complex structure induced by the complex structure

$$I(\bar{\delta}_A, \Phi) = (i\bar{\delta}_A, i\Phi)$$

on \mathcal{H}^p (see [7] for details). The corresponding moment map is

$$[(A, \Phi)] \mapsto -\frac{1}{2} \|\Phi\|^2 = -i \int_{\Sigma} \text{Tr}(\Phi \Phi^*).$$

Let us consider the positive function

$$(2.29) \quad f := \frac{1}{2} \|\Phi\|^2.$$

Boden and Yokogawa in [7] show that this map is proper. By a general result of Frankel [11] which states that a proper moment map of a circle action on a Kähler manifold is a perfect Morse-Bott function, we conclude that f is Morse-Bott. Its critical set (which corresponds to the fixed point set of the circle action) was studied by Simpson in [34] who shows the following result.

Proposition 2.30. (*Simpson*) *The equivalence class of a stable PHB $\mathbf{E} = (E, \Phi)$ is fixed by the S^1 -action (2.28) if and only if E has a direct sum decomposition*

$$E = E_0 \oplus \cdots \oplus E_m$$

as parabolic bundles, such that Φ is strongly parabolic and of degree one with respect to this decomposition, i.e.,

$$\Phi|_{E_l} \in H^0(S\text{ParHom}(E_l, E_{l+1}) \otimes K_{\Sigma}(D)).$$

Moreover, stability implies that $\Phi|_{E_l} \neq 0$ for $l = 0, \dots, m-1$, and $\mathbf{E} = (\bigoplus_l E_l, \Phi)$ is stable as a parabolic Higgs bundle if and only if the stability condition is satisfied for all proper parabolic subbundles which respect the decomposition $E = \bigoplus_l E_l$ and are preserved by Φ .

Remark 2.31. Note that if $m = 0$, then $E = E_0$ and $\Phi = 0$ and one obtains the fixed points $(E, 0)$, where E is a stable parabolic bundle. Hence the moduli space $\mathcal{M}_{\beta, r, d}^{0, \Lambda}$ of β -stable rank- r parabolic bundles of fixed degree and determinant is a component of the fixed-point set.

The Morse index of a critical point of f , which equals the dimension of the negative weight space of the circle action on the tangent space at the fixed point (see [11]), was computed by García-Prada, Gothen and Muñoz:

Proposition 2.32. [13] *Let the PHB $\mathbf{E} = (\bigoplus_{l=0}^m E_l, \Phi)$ represent a critical point of f . Then the Morse index of f at \mathbf{E} is given by*

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_{\mathbf{E}} = & 2r^2(g-1) + \sum_{i=1}^n \left(r^2 - \sum_{j=1}^{s_{x_i}} m_j(x_i)^2 \right) \\ & + 2 \sum_{l=0}^m \left((1-g-n) \text{rank}(E_l)^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n \dim P_{x_i}(E_l, E_l) \right) \\ & + 2 \sum_{l=0}^{m-1} \left((1-g) \text{rank}(E_l) \text{rank}(E_{l+1}) - \text{rank}(E_l) \deg(E_{l+1}) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \text{rank}(E_{l+1}) \deg(E_l) - \sum_{i=1}^n \dim N_{x_i}(E_l, E_{l+1}) \right), \end{aligned}$$

where, given two parabolic bundles F and G , $P_x(F, G)$ denotes the subspace of $\text{Hom}(F_x, G_x)$ formed by parabolic maps, and $N_x(F, G)$ denotes the subspace of strongly parabolic maps.

2.2.3. The rank-two situation. Let us now restrict ourselves to the **rank two** situation. Most of what is presented in this section is essentially contained in [7] but we will give an exposition adapted to our purposes.

If $\mathbf{E} = (E, \Phi)$ is a fixed point of the circle action defined in (2.28) then we have two possible cases:

- (1) E is a stable rank-2 parabolic bundle and $\Phi = 0$ (see Remark 2.31);
- (2) $E = E_0 \oplus E_1$ where E_0 and E_1 are parabolic line bundles and Φ induces a strongly parabolic map

$$\Phi_0 := \Phi|_{E_0} : E_0 \longrightarrow E_1 \otimes K_{\Sigma}(D).$$

In the first case, the corresponding critical submanifold can be identified with the moduli space $\mathcal{M}_{\beta,2,d}^{0,\Lambda}$ of ordinary rank-2 parabolic bundles of fixed degree and determinant and it is the only critical component where the Morse-Bott function f takes its minimum value $f = 0$.

The fixed points in the second situation occur when $e^{i\theta} \cdot (\bar{\delta}_A, \Phi)$ is gauge equivalent to $(\bar{\delta}_A, \Phi)$. In particular, this implies that there exists a 1-parameter family $g_\theta \in \mathcal{G}^p$ such that $g_\theta^{-1} \Phi g_\theta = e^{i\theta} \Phi$ which is diagonal with respect to the decomposition $E = E_0 \oplus E_1$ (in fact the splitting of the holomorphic parabolic bundle E is determined by the eigenvalues of g_θ). Hence Φ is either strictly upper or lower triangular, meaning that one of E_0 or E_1 is Φ -invariant. Since we also have that $\Phi_0 := \Phi|_{E_0}$ is a map from E_0 to $E_1 \otimes K_\Sigma(D)$, we conclude that

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ \phi & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

with $0 \neq \phi \in SParHom(E_0, E_1 \otimes K_\Sigma(D))$. Then E_1 is preserved by Φ which, by β -stability of \mathbf{E} , implies that $\mu(E_1) < \mu(E)$. By Example 3 this is equivalent to requiring

(2.33)

$$\deg E - 2 \deg E_1 > \sum_{i \in S_{E_1}} (\beta_2(x_i) - \beta_1(x_i)) - \sum_{i \in S_{E_1}^c} (\beta_2(x_i) - \beta_1(x_i)),$$

where $0 \leq \beta_1(x_i) < \beta_2(x_i) < 1$ are the parabolic weights of E at $x_i \in D$ and

$$S_{E_1} = \{i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \mid \beta^{E_1}(x_i) = \beta_2(x_i)\}$$

with $0 \leq \beta^{E_1}(x_1) < 1$ the weight of E_1 at x_i .

On the other hand, the existence of a strongly parabolic map

$$0 \neq \Phi_0 := \Phi|_{E_0} : E_0 \longrightarrow E_1 \otimes K_\Sigma(D)$$

implies that

$$H^0\left(SParHom(E_0, E_1 \otimes K_\Sigma(D))\right) \neq 0.$$

Moreover,

$$SParHom(E_0, E_1 \otimes K(D)) \cong Hom\left(E_0, E_1 \otimes K\left(D \setminus \cup_{i \in S_{E_1}^c} \{x_i\}\right)\right),$$

since, denoting the parabolic weights of E_0 and E_1 at x_i respectively by $\beta^{E_0}(x_i)$ and $\beta^{E_1}(x_i)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} S_{E_0} &= S_{E_1}^c = \{i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \mid \beta^{E_0}(x_i) = \beta_2(x_i)\} \\ &= \{i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \mid \beta^{E_0}(x_i) > \beta^{E_1}(x_i)\}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, a necessary condition for $(E_0 \oplus E_1, \Phi)$ to be a critical point is that

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &\leq \deg \operatorname{Hom}\left(E_0, E_1 \otimes K_\Sigma(D \setminus \cup_{i \in S_{E_1}^c} \{x_i\})\right) \\
&= \deg \left(E_0^* \otimes E_1 \otimes K_\Sigma(D \setminus \cup_{i \in S_{E_1}^c} \{x_i\})\right) \\
&= \deg \left(E_0^* \otimes E_1 \otimes K_\Sigma \otimes \mathcal{O}_\Sigma(D \setminus \cup_{i \in S_{E_1}^c} \{x_i\})\right) \\
&= \deg(E_1) - \deg(E_0) + 2(g-1) + |D \setminus \cup_{i \in S_{E_1}^c} \{x_i\}| \\
&= \deg(E_1) - \deg(E_0) + 2(g-1) + n - |S_{E_1}^c| \\
&= \deg(E) - 2\deg(E_0) + 2(g-1) + |S_{E_1}|,
\end{aligned}$$

where we used the fact that $\deg K_\Sigma = 2(g-1)$ and that, for any divisor $\tilde{D} = \sum_{x \in \Sigma} n_x x$, we have

$$\deg \mathcal{O}_\Sigma(\tilde{D}) = \deg(\tilde{D}) = \sum_{x \in \Sigma} n_x.$$

Using (2.33) we conclude that if $(E_0 \oplus E_1, \Phi)$ is a critical point then

$$\varepsilon_{S_{E_1}}(\beta_2 - \beta_1) + d < 2d_0 \leq d + 2(g-1) + |S_{E_1}|,$$

where $d_0 = \deg E_0$, $d = \deg E$, $\beta_2 - \beta_1$ is the vector

$$(\beta_2(x_1) - \beta_1(x_1), \dots, \beta_2(x_n) - \beta_1(x_n))$$

and $\varepsilon_{S_{E_1}}(\beta_2 - \beta_1)$ is the sum defined in (2.8).

Given $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $d_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$, let $\mathcal{M}_{(d_0, S)}$ be the critical submanifold formed by parabolic Higgs bundles $\mathbf{E} = (E_0 \oplus E_1, \Phi) \in \mathcal{N}_{\beta, 2, d}^{0, \Lambda}$, where E_0 is a parabolic line bundle of topological degree d_0 and parabolic weights β^{E_0} satisfying $S_{E_0} = S^c$ (i.e. $\beta^{E_0}(x_i) = \beta_2(x_i)$ if and only if $i \in S^c$). Then

Proposition 2.34. *Given $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $d_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$, the critical submanifold $\mathcal{M}_{(d_0, S)} \subset \mathcal{N}_{\beta, 2, d}^{0, \Lambda}$ is nonempty if and only if*

$$(2.35) \quad \varepsilon_S(\beta_2 - \beta_1) + d < 2d_0 \leq d + 2(g-1) + |S|.$$

Moreover, denoting by $\tilde{S}^m \Sigma$ the 2^{2g} cover of the symmetric product $S^m \Sigma$ under the map $x \mapsto 2x$ on $\operatorname{Jac}(\Sigma)$, the map

$$\begin{aligned}
(2.36) \quad \mathcal{M}_{(d_0, S)} &\longrightarrow \tilde{S}^m \Sigma, \\
(E_0 \oplus E_1, \Phi) &\mapsto (E_0, \operatorname{div} \Phi_0)
\end{aligned}$$

is an isomorphism for

$$m = d - 2d_0 + 2(g-1) + |S|,$$

where $\text{div} \Phi_0$ (the zero set of $\Phi_0 := \Phi|_{E_0}$) is a non-negative divisor of degree m .

Proof. The discussion preceding this statement shows that (2.35) is necessary for $\mathcal{M}_{(d_0, S)}$ to be nonempty.

Suppose now that a pair (d_0, S) satisfies (2.35). Given an effective divisor $D_m \in S^m \Sigma$ with $m = d - 2d_0 + 2(g-1) + |S|$ one gets a line bundle $\mathcal{O}_\Sigma(D_m)$ with a nonzero section Φ_0 determined up to multiplication by a nonzero scalar, as well as the bundle

$$U := K_\Sigma \otimes \mathcal{O}_\Sigma(\cup_{i \in S} \{x_i\}) \otimes \mathcal{O}_\Sigma(-D_m)$$

of degree $2d_0 - d$. Then, one can choose a line bundle $L_0 \in \text{Jac}^{d_0}(\Sigma)$, such that

$$(2.37) \quad L_0^{\otimes 2} = \Lambda \otimes U$$

and equip it with the parabolic structure given by the trivial flag over each point $x_i \in D$ and the weight assignment

$$\beta^{L_0}(x_i) = \begin{cases} \beta_1(x_i), & \text{if } i \in S \\ \beta_2(x_i), & \text{if } i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \setminus S. \end{cases}$$

In addition one considers the bundle

$$L_1 := L_0 \otimes U^*$$

equipped with the complementary parabolic structure. Defining Φ to have component $\Phi|_{L_0} = \Phi_0$ one obtains a PHB $\mathbf{E} = (L_0 \oplus L_1, \Phi)$ which clearly has the desired invariants (d_0, S) , has the required determinant (since $\Lambda^2(L_0 \oplus L_1) = L_0 \otimes L_1 = L_0^{\otimes 2} \otimes U^* = \Lambda$) and is stable if (2.35) is satisfied. Hence (2.35) is a sufficient condition for $\mathcal{M}_{(d_0, S)}$ to be nonempty. Note that there exist 2^{2g} possible choices of L_0 satisfying (2.37) (since the 2-torsion points in the Jacobian form a group

$$\Gamma_2 = \{L \mid L^{\otimes 2} = \mathcal{O}\}$$

isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}^{2g}), and that each choice gives a stable PHB. Hence, the map (2.36) is surjective.

To see that it is injective we note that by taking non-zero scalar multiples of the Higgs field $\Phi_0 \in H^0(L_0^* \otimes L_1 \otimes K(\cup_{i \in S} \{x_i\}))$ (in order to obtain the same divisor $\text{div} \Phi$) one obtains two isomorphic PHBs since (E, Φ) is gauge equivalent to $(E, \lambda \Phi)$ for $\lambda \neq 0$. \square

To compute the Morse index at the points in $\mathcal{M}_{(d_0, S)}$ we use Proposition 2.32 to obtain the following proposition.

Proposition 2.38. *The index of the critical submanifold $\mathcal{M}_{(d_0, S)}$ is*

$$\lambda_{(d_0, S)} = 2(g - 1 + n) + 4d_0 - 2d - 2|S|.$$

Proof. Noting that all the multiplicities are equal to 1 and that $s_x = 2$ for every point in D , the proof follows from Proposition 2.32 after we compute the dimensions of the spaces $P_x(E_l, E_l)$, $l = 0, 1$, and $N_x(E_0, E_1)$ for every point $x \in D$. The space $P_x(E_l, E_l)$ is formed by the parabolic endomorphisms of $(E_l)_x$ and so, in this case,

$$\dim P_x(E_l, E_l) = \dim \text{End}((E_l)_x) = 1.$$

The space $N_{x_i}(E_0, E_1)$ is the space of strongly parabolic maps from $(E_0)_{x_i}$ to $(E_1)_{x_i}$ and so

$$N_{x_i}(E_0, E_1) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } \beta^{E_0}(x_i) > \beta^{E_1}(x_i) \\ \text{Hom}((E_0)_{x_i}, (E_1)_{x_i}), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Hence,

$$\dim N_{x_i}(E_0, E_1) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \setminus S \\ 1, & \text{if } i \in S. \end{cases}$$

□

With this we have the following proposition.

Proposition 2.39. (1) *If $g \geq 1$ then $\lambda_{(d_0, S)} > 0$ for all (d_0, S) satisfying (2.35).*
 (2) *If $g = 0$ and $n \geq 3$ then there is at most one pair (d_0, S) satisfying (2.35) with $\lambda_{(d_0, S)} = 0$. Moreover, this pair exists if and only if $\mathcal{M}_{\beta, 2, d}^{0, \Lambda} = \emptyset$ and, in this case, $\mathcal{M}_{(d_0, S)} = \mathbb{CP}^{n-3}$.*

Proof. If $\lambda_{(d_0, S)} = 0$ then $2d_0 = 1 - g - n + d + |S|$. Since, from (2.35), we have $2d_0 > \varepsilon_S(\alpha) + d$, with $\alpha = \beta_2 - \beta_1$, we conclude that $\varepsilon_S(\alpha) < 1 - g - n + |S|$. Moreover, since by definition

$$\varepsilon_S(\alpha) = \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i - \sum_{i \in S^c} \alpha_i$$

and $0 < \alpha_i < 1$, we have $\varepsilon_S(\alpha) > -|S^c| = |S| - n$ and so

$$|S| - n < \varepsilon_S(\alpha) < 1 - g - n + |S|,$$

implying that $0 < 1 - g$ and thus $g = 0$.

Let us assume now that $g = 0$. Then (2.35) and $\lambda_{(d_0, s)} = 0$ imply that

$$|S| - n < \varepsilon_S(\alpha) < 1 + |S| - n,$$

and so

$$0 < \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i - \sum_{i \in S^c} \alpha_i + |S^c| < 1,$$

which is equivalent to

$$(2.40) \quad 0 < \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i + \sum_{i \in S^c} (1 - \alpha_i) < 1,$$

with the advantage that now all the summands in (2.40) are positive.

If $\lambda_{(d'_0, S')} = 0$ for some other $(d'_0, S') \neq (d_0, S)$ then

$$2(d'_0 - d_0) = |S'| - |S|$$

and so $|S'| - |S|$ is even. This implies that there exist at least two indices in $S \cup S'$ that are not in $S' \cap S$ and so

$$|(S \cup S') \cap (S \cap S')^c| = |(S' \cup S) \cap ((S')^c \cup S^c)| \geq 2.$$

Hence, since both S and S' satisfy (2.40) we have that

$$2 < \sum_{i \in S' \cup S} \alpha_i + \sum_{i \in (S')^c \cup S^c} (1 - \alpha_i) < 2.$$

which is impossible. Hence there is at most one pair (d_0, S) satisfying (2.35) with $\lambda_{(d_0, S)} = 0$.

Still assuming $g = 0$, one has from Proposition 2.34 that

$$\mathcal{M}_{(d_0, S)} \cong S^m \mathbb{CP}^1 \cong \mathbb{CP}^m$$

with $m = d - 2d_0 - 2 + |S|$. In particular, if $\lambda_{(d_0, S)} = 0$, we have that $m = n - 3$ and so $\mathcal{M}_{(d_0, S)} \cong \mathbb{CP}^{n-3}$.

To show that such a pair exists if and only if $\mathcal{M}_{\beta, 2, d}^{0, \Lambda} = \emptyset$ we first define for any (d_0, S) the hyperplane

$$H_{(d_0, S)} = \{(\beta_1, \beta_2) \in Q \mid \varepsilon_S(\alpha) + d = 2d_0\},$$

where $Q := \{(\beta_1, \beta_2) \in \mathbb{R}^{2n} \mid 0 < \beta_{1,i} < \beta_{2,i} < 1, i = 1, \dots, n\}$ is the so-called *weight space*. Boden and Hu show in [6] that, if β and β' are weights in adjacent connected components of $Q \setminus \cup_{(d_0, S)} H_{(d_0, S)}$, (usually called *chambers*) then the corresponding moduli spaces are related by a special birational transformation which is similar to a flip in Mori theory which will be studied in detail in Section 4. Moreover, when $g = 0$, there exist *null chambers* formed by weights $\beta \in Q$ for which $\mathcal{M}_{\beta, 2, d}^{0, \Lambda} = \emptyset$. Let β and β' be weights on either side of a (unique) hyperplane separating a null chamber from the rest (called a *vanishing wall*), and let δ be a weight on this hyperplane. Then, assuming $\mathcal{M}_{\beta', 2, d}^{0, \Lambda} = \emptyset$, Boden and Hu show that there exists a canonical projective map

$$\phi : \mathcal{M}_{\beta, 2, d}^{0, \Lambda} \longrightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\delta, 2, d}^{0, \Lambda}$$

which is a fibration with fiber \mathbb{CP}^a , where $a = \dim \mathcal{M}_{\beta,2,d}^{0,\Lambda} - \dim \mathcal{M}_{\delta,2,d}^{0,\Lambda} = n - 3$. Moreover, $\mathcal{M}_{\delta,2,d}^{0,\Lambda}$ consists of classes of strictly semistable bundles $E = L \oplus F$ for parabolic line bundles L and F with $S_F = S$ and $\deg(L) = d_0$. Assuming, without loss of generality, that $\varepsilon_{S_F}(\tilde{\beta}) > \varepsilon_{S_F}(\tilde{\delta}) > \varepsilon_{S_F}(\tilde{\beta}')$, the fact that $\mathcal{M}_{\beta',r,d}^{0,\Lambda} = \emptyset$ implies that there are no nontrivial extensions of L by F , when regarded with weight β' , i.e. $\text{ParExt}_{\beta'}^1(L, F) = 0$ (cf. [7] for details). Then, the short exact sequence of sheaves

$$0 \longrightarrow \text{ParHom}(L, F) \longrightarrow \text{Hom}(L, F) \longrightarrow \text{Hom}(L_D, F_D)/P_D(L, F) \longrightarrow 0,$$

(where, denoting by $P_x(L, F)$ the subspace of $\text{Hom}(L_x, F_x)$ consisting of parabolic maps, we write $P_D(L, F) = \bigoplus_{x \in D} P_x(L, F)$), gives us

$$\begin{aligned} \chi(\text{ParHom}(L, F)) &= \chi(\text{Hom}(L, F)) - \chi(\text{Hom}(L_D, F_D)/P_D(L, F)) \\ (2.41) \quad &= \chi(\text{Hom}(L, F)) + \sum_{i=1}^n (\dim P_{x_i} - 1). \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, since $H^0(\text{ParHom}_{\beta'}(L, F)) = 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \dim \text{ParExt}_{\beta'}^1(L, F) = \dim H^1(\text{ParHom}_{\beta'}(L, F)) \\ &= -\chi(\text{ParHom}_{\beta'}(L, F)) = -\chi(\text{Hom}(L, F)) - \sum_{i=1}^n (\dim P_{x_i} - 1) \\ &= -\chi(L^* \otimes F) + |S_L| = 2d_0 - d - 1 + n - |S|, \end{aligned}$$

where we used the Riemann-Roch theorem and the fact that $S_L = S_F^c = S^c$. Hence, every vanishing wall is given by $H_{(d_0, S)}$ with $2d_0 - d - 1 + n - |S| = 0$. Conversely, if $d + 1 - n + |S|$ is even and $d_0 = (d + 1 - n + |S|)/2$, then $H_{(d_0, S)}$ is a vanishing wall. We conclude that if β' is in a null chamber separated from the rest by a (unique) hyperplane $H_{(d_0, S)}$ then $2d_0 - d > \varepsilon_S(\alpha')$ with $\alpha' = \beta'_2 - \beta'_1$, as usual, and $2d_0 - d - 1 + n - |S| = 0$ and so, when $n \geq 3$, (d_0, S) originates a critical component with index 0 (since this pair satisfies (2.35)). \square

Example 4. Let us now consider the case where $g = 0$ (i.e. $\Sigma = \mathbb{CP}^1$) and $\deg(E) = 0$, and make the additional restriction of only considering rank-2 PHBs which are trivial as holomorphic vector bundles. Let $\mathcal{H}(\beta) \subset \mathcal{N}_{\beta,2,0}^{0,\Lambda}$ be the moduli space of such PHBs. The S^1 -action on $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,2,0}^{0,\Lambda}$ defined in (2.28) restricts to an S^1 -action on $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ with moment map the restriction to $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ of the moment map f defined in (2.29). For a generic weight vector β (with $0 < \beta_1(x_j) < \beta_2(x_j) < 1$ at the parabolic points $x_j \in D = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$), the critical components of

$f = \frac{1}{2} \|\Phi\|^2$ where f is nonzero are those $\mathcal{M}_{(0,S)} \subset \mathcal{H}(\beta)$ for which

$$\varepsilon_S(\beta_2 - \beta_1) < 0 \leq |S| - 2.$$

Indeed, by Proposition 2.30, an element of $\mathcal{M}_{(0,S)}$ decomposes as $E = E_0 \oplus E_1$, and so $d_0 = \deg(E_0) = 0$.

Hence, there is a one-to-one correspondence between the components $\mathcal{M}_{(0,S)}$ and the sets $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ with $|S| \geq 2$ which are short for $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$, with $\alpha_i := \beta_2(x_i) - \beta_1(x_i)$ (see (2.11) for the definition of a short set).

The Morse indices of the critical submanifolds $\mathcal{M}_{(0,S)}$ are

$$\lambda_{(0,S)} = 2(n - 1 - |S|).$$

If one of these has index zero then the corresponding short set S has cardinality $|S| = n - 1$. As we will see later, the space $\mathcal{M}_{\beta,2,0}^{0,\Lambda}$ of ordinary rank-2 parabolic bundles of degree zero and fixed determinant can be identified with the set of spatial polygons in \mathbb{R}^3 with n edges of prescribed lengths equal to α_i . Then, the existence of a short set with cardinality $n - 1$ implies that these polygons do not close and so $\mathcal{M}_{\beta,2,0}^{0,\Lambda} = \emptyset$ (thus verifying Proposition 2.39).

To end this example we explore in detail the implications of the genericity condition on the weight vector β . Let E be any rank-2 semistable parabolic bundle over \mathbb{CP}^1 which is trivial as a holomorphic vector bundle. By Grothendieck's Theorem the underlying holomorphic bundle is isomorphic to the sum

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{CP}^1}(0) \oplus \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{CP}^1}(0).$$

Hence, given an arbitrary $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ there is a uniquely determined parabolic degree-0 line subbundle L of E with fiber over x_i equal to $L_{x_i} = E_{x_i,2}$ (the underlying line bundle is just $\mathbb{CP}^1 \times E_{x_i,2}$). Any other parabolic line subbundle \tilde{L} of E admits a nontrivial parabolic map to E/L . In particular its degree is also zero (cf. Lemma 2.4 in [4]). We conclude that any parabolic line subbundle of E must have degree zero and hence it is trivial as a holomorphic line bundle.

Knowing this, any rank-2 holomorphically trivial PHB which is semistable but not stable with respect to the weights β must have an invariant line subbundle \mathbf{L} satisfying

$$(2.42) \quad 0 = \sum_{i \in S_L} (\beta_2(x_i) - \beta_1(x_i)) - \sum_{i \in S_L^c} (\beta_2(x_i) - \beta_1(x_i))$$

(just use (2.21) with both $\deg(E) = \deg(L) = 0$). For any $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ one can construct a parabolic line bundle which is trivial

as a holomorphic line bundle and has parabolic weights

$$\beta^L(x_i) = \begin{cases} \beta_2(x_i), & \text{if } i \in S \\ \beta_1(x_i), & \text{if } i \notin S. \end{cases}$$

Hence one may write $L = \mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{C}$ and see it as a line subbundle \mathbf{L} of the PHB

$$\mathbf{E} = (E := \mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{C}^2, (\beta_j(x_i))_{x_i \in D}, \Phi = 0)$$

with the flag structure defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{C}^2 &= E_{x_i,1} \supset E_{x_i,2} = \mathbb{C} \supset 0, \\ 0 &\leq \beta_1(x_i) < \beta_2(x_i) < 1, \end{aligned}$$

where the class $[E_{x_i,2}] \in \mathbb{CP}^1$ is the same for all $i \in S$ and satisfies

$$[E_{x_i,2}] = [L_{x_i}], \text{ for } i \in S.$$

(Note that \mathbb{CP}^1 is the projective space of the fiber of E .) Then \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{L} satisfy (2.42) if and only if

$$\sum_{i \in S} (\beta_2(x_i) - \beta_1(x_i)) - \sum_{i \in S^c} (\beta_2(x_i) - \beta_1(x_i)) = 0.$$

We conclude that a weight vector β is generic if and only if

$$\varepsilon_S(\alpha) := \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i - \sum_{i \in S^c} \alpha_i \neq 0$$

for every $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$, where $\alpha := \beta_2 - \beta_1$. Note that this condition is the same as the one used for polygon and hyperpolygon spaces in Section 2.1.

Example 5. Let us consider the moduli space $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,2,0}^{0,\Lambda}$ of PHBs over \mathbb{CP}^1 with $n = 4$ parabolic points. By Proposition 2.34, given $S \subset \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ and $d_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$, the critical submanifold $\mathcal{M}_{(d_0,S)}$ is nonempty if and only if

$$\varepsilon_S(\alpha) < 2d_0 \leq |S| - 2,$$

with $\alpha = \beta_2 - \beta_1$. If $d_0 = 0$ then one obtains all short sets of cardinality at least 2. One can easily check that the only other possible value is $d_0 = 1$, in which case one obtains $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$. There are then four index-2 critical points: $\mathcal{M}_{(1,\{1,2,3,4\})}$ and $\mathcal{M}_{(0,S_i)}$, $i = 1, 2, 3$, corresponding to the three possible short sets S_i of cardinality 2 (cf. Proposition 2.38). Moreover, from Proposition 2.39 we know that $\mathcal{M}_{\beta,2,0}^{0,\Lambda}$ is empty if and only if there is a short set S_0 of cardinality 3, in which case the critical component $\mathcal{M}_{(0,S_0)} \cong \mathbb{CP}^1$ has index-0. When nonempty $\mathcal{M}_{\beta,2,0}^{0,\Lambda} \cong \mathbb{CP}^1$ is the critical component of index-0.

Note that if we restrict the circle action to the moduli space $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ as in Example 4 we are left with the three index-2 critical points $\mathcal{M}_{(0,S_i)}$, $i = 1, 2, 3$, corresponding to the three possible short sets S_i of cardinality 2, together with the minimal sphere (either $\mathcal{M}_{\beta,2,0}^{0,\Lambda}$ or $\mathcal{M}_{(0,S_0)}$ with S_0 the short set of cardinality 3).

3. TRIVIAL RANK-2 PARABOLIC HIGGS BUNDLES OVER \mathbb{CP}^1 VERSUS HYPERPOLYGONS

In this section we give an explicit isomorphism between hyperpolygons spaces and moduli spaces of parabolic Higgs bundles.

Given a divisor $D = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ in \mathbb{CP}^1 , let $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ be the subspace of $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,2,0}^{0,\Lambda}$ formed by rank-2 β -stable PHBs E over \mathbb{CP}^1 that are topologically trivial, (see Example 4) with generic parabolic weights $\beta_2(x_i), \beta_1(x_i)$. The fact that the parabolic weights are generic implies that the vector $\alpha := \beta_2 - \beta_1 \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$ is also generic (see (2.8)), and hence we can consider the hyperpolygon space $X(\alpha)$. Then we have the following result.

Theorem 3.1. *The hyperpolygon space $X(\alpha)$ and the moduli space $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ of PHBs are isomorphic.*

Proof. Consider the map

$$(3.1) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathcal{J} : X(\alpha) &\rightarrow \mathcal{H}(\beta) \\ [p, q]_{\alpha\text{-st}} &\mapsto [E_{(p,q)}, \Phi_{(p,q)}] =: \mathbf{E}_{(p,q)} \end{aligned}$$

where $E_{(p,q)}$ is the trivial vector bundle $\mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{C}^2$ with the parabolic structure consisting of weighted flags

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{C}^2 &\supset \langle q_i \rangle \supset 0 \\ 0 &\leq \beta_1(x_i) < \beta_2(x_i) < 1 \end{aligned}$$

over each $x_i \in D$, and where $\Phi_{[p,q]} \in H^0(SParEnd(E_{(p,q)}) \otimes K_{\mathbb{CP}^1}(D))$ is the Higgs field uniquely determined by setting the residues at the parabolic points x_i equal to

$$(3.2) \quad \text{Res}_{x_i} \Phi := (q_i p_i)_0.$$

We first show that the map \mathcal{J} is well-defined, that is, the Higgs field $\Phi_{(p,q)}$ is uniquely defined, the PHB $\mathbf{E}_{(p,q)}$ is stable, and the map \mathcal{J} is independent of the choice of representative in $[p, q]_{\alpha\text{-st}}$.

- Given a prescribed set of residues adding up to zero, Theorem II.5.3 in [10] allows one to construct a meromorphic 1-form (since \mathbb{CP}^1 is compact). This defines Φ up to addition of a holomorphic 1-form. However, by Hodge theory, the space of holomorphic 1-forms

on a Riemann surface of genus g has dimension g (see Proposition III.2.7 in [10]), and so on \mathbb{CP}^1 a collection of residues adding up to zero uniquely determines a meromorphic 1-form. Since $(p, q) \in \mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(0)^{\alpha\text{-st}}$, the set of residues (3.2) adds up to 0 by the complex moment map condition (2.2) and so it uniquely determines the Higgs field $\Phi_{(p,q)} \in H^0(SParEnd(\mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{C}^2) \otimes K_{\mathbb{CP}^1}(D))$.

• Recall that the PHB $\mathbf{E}_{(p,q)}$ is stable if $\mu(L) < \mu(E_{(p,q)})$ for all proper parabolic subbundles L that are preserved by $\Phi_{(p,q)}$. Note that, since the bundle $E_{(p,q)}$ is topologically trivial, any parabolic Higgs subbundle \mathbf{L} of $\mathbf{E}_{(p,q)}$ is also trivial (see Example 4) and its parabolic structure at each point $x_i \in D$ consists of the fiber L_{x_i} with weight

$$\beta^L(x_i) = \begin{cases} \beta_2(x_i), & \text{if } L_{x_i} = \langle q_i \rangle \\ \beta_1(x_i), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Consider the index set $S_L := \{i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \mid L_{x_i} = \text{Im } q_i\}$ associated to any such subbundle. Since L is topologically trivial, then S_L is clearly straight. Let us assume without loss of generality that the fiber of L at each point of \mathbb{CP}^1 is the space generated by $(1, 0)^t$. Then, writing $q_i = (c_i, d_i)^t$, one has $d_i = 0$ for $i \in S_L$ and $d_i \neq 0$ for $i \in S_L^c$. Since $\Phi_{(p,q)}$ preserves \mathbf{L} , then, writing $p_i = (a_i, b_i)$ the residues $(q_i p_i)_0$ satisfy

$$(q_i p_i)_0 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2}(a_i c_i - b_i d_i) & b_i c_i \\ a_i d_i & -\frac{1}{2}(a_i c_i - b_i d_i) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_i \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

for some $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}$. This implies that $a_i d_i = 0$ for every i and so $a_i = 0$ for every $i \in S_L^c$. Then, using the moment map condition (2.4), one has $b_i = 0$ and thus $p_i = 0$ for $i \in S_L^c$.

Consequently, by the α -stability of (p, q) (see Theorem 2.1) the index set S_L is short. This, by (2.21) with $\deg L = \deg E = 0$, is equivalent to $\mu(L) < \mu(E)$, and the stability of $\mathbf{E}_{(p,q)}$ follows.

• To see that \mathcal{I} is independent of the choice of a representative in $[p, q]_{\alpha\text{-st}}$ let (\tilde{p}, \tilde{q}) be an element in the $K^{\mathbb{C}}$ -orbit of (p, q) and consider $[E_{(\tilde{p}, \tilde{q})}, \Phi_{(\tilde{p}, \tilde{q})}]$ as before. The Higgs field $\Phi_{(\tilde{p}, \tilde{q})}$ is defined by the residues

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Res}_{x_i} \Phi_{(\tilde{p}, \tilde{q})} &:= (\tilde{q}_i \tilde{p}_i)_0 = (B q_i z_i^{-1} z_i p_i B^{-1})_0 = B (q_i p_i)_0 B^{-1} \\ &= B \text{Res}_{x_i} \Phi_{(p,q)} B^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

for some $B \in SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ and $z_i \in \mathbb{C}^*$. Similarly, the flags in $E_{(\tilde{p}, \tilde{q})}$ are determined by $\tilde{q}_i = B q_i z_i^{-1}$. Note that $q_i z_i^{-1}$ is just another generator of $\langle q_i \rangle$, and B acts on the whole bundle leaving the flag structure unchanged. Since the weights are obviously the same, we can conclude

that $[E_{(p,q)}, \Phi_{(p,q)}] = [E_{(\tilde{p},\tilde{q})}, \Phi_{(\tilde{p},\tilde{q})}]$. This completes the proof that the map \mathcal{I} is well-defined.

Let us consider the map $\mathcal{F} : \mathcal{H}(\beta) \rightarrow X(\alpha)$ defined by

$$(3.3) \quad \mathcal{F}([E, \Phi]) = [p, q]_{\alpha\text{-st}}$$

where (p, q) is determined as follows. For every parabolic point $x_i \in D$, let $q_i = (c_i, d_i)^t$ be a generator of the flag $E_{x_i,2}$ and, considering the residue of the Higgs field Φ at the parabolic point x_i

$$N_i := \text{Res}_{x_i} \Phi = \begin{pmatrix} r_{11}^i & r_{12}^i \\ r_{21}^i & r_{22}^i \end{pmatrix},$$

let p_i be

$$(3.4) \quad p_i = (a_i, b_i) := \begin{cases} \left(\frac{r_{21}^i}{d_i}, \frac{r_{12}^i}{c_i} \right), & \text{if } c_i, d_i \neq 0; \\ \left(\frac{r_{21}^i}{d_i}, 0 \right), & \text{if } c_i = 0, d_i \neq 0; \\ \left(0, \frac{r_{12}^i}{c_i} \right), & \text{if } c_i \neq 0, d_i = 0. \end{cases}$$

(Note that the case $c_i = d_i = 0$ never occurs since the flags are complete.) To see that \mathcal{F} is well-defined one needs to check that (p, q) , defined as above, is in $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}(p, q) = 0$, it is α -stable and also that the value of \mathcal{F} does not depend on the choice of generators of the flags $E_{x_i,2}$ nor on the choice of representative of the class $[E, \Phi]$.

• Since N_i is by assumption trace-free, one gets $r_{22}^i = -r_{11}^i$. Moreover, since N_i preserves the flag, one has that $c_i = 0$ implies $r_{12}^i = 0$ and that $d_i = 0$ implies $r_{21}^i = 0$. Hence, in all cases one has $r_{12}^i = b_i c_i$ and $r_{21}^i = a_i d_i$ and then

$$(3.5) \quad \begin{pmatrix} r_{11}^i & b_i c_i \\ a_i d_i & -r_{11}^i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_i \\ d_i \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda c_i \\ \lambda d_i \end{pmatrix}$$

for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$. On the other hand, since the residue of the Higgs field is nilpotent, one has $\det N_i = 0$ and so

$$(3.6) \quad (r_{11}^i)^2 = -r_{12}^i r_{21}^i = -a_i b_i c_i d_i.$$

Using (3.5) and (3.6) one gets that

$$(3.7) \quad r_{11}^i = \frac{a_i c_i - b_i d_i}{2}$$

and so the residue can be rewritten as

$$(3.8) \quad N_i = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2}(a_i c_i - b_i d_i) & b_i c_i \\ a_i d_i & -\frac{1}{2}(a_i c_i - b_i d_i) \end{pmatrix}.$$

This, together with the fact that the sum of the residues N_i is 0, implies condition (2.5). Moreover, (3.6) and (3.7) give us

$$\frac{(a_i c_i - b_i d_i)^2}{4} = -a_i b_i c_i d_i,$$

which implies

$$a_i c_i + b_i d_i = 0.$$

Hence, the nilpotency of the residue N_i implies the complex moment map condition (2.4). This proves that $(p, q) \in \mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(0)$.

- To show that (p, q) is α -stable, we need to check that conditions (i) and (ii) of Theorem 2.1 are verified. The first one ($q_i \neq 0$ for all i), is trivially verified since the flags are complete by assumption. To show the second condition, let $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ be a maximal straight set such that $p_i = 0$ for all $i \in S^c$. As in Example 4 one can construct a line subbundle L_S of the trivial bundle $\mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{C}^2$ which is trivial as an holomorphic line bundle, with fiber the complex line generated by the q_i for $i \in S$. We then give L_S a parabolic structure at the parabolic points x_1, \dots, x_n by assigning the parabolic weights

$$\beta^{L_S}(x_i) = \begin{cases} \beta_2(x_i), & \text{if } i \in S \\ \beta_1(x_i), & \text{if } i \notin S. \end{cases}$$

By construction L_S is a parabolic subbundle of \mathbf{E} . Moreover, it is also trivially preserved by the Higgs field Φ since, by the moment map condition (2.4), one has

$$N_i q_i = 0, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, n.$$

Therefore, by stability of \mathbf{E} , one gets that L_S satisfies $\mu(L_S) < \mu(E)$, which implies that S is short since both bundles have degree zero. By Remark 2.12, this is equivalent to condition (ii).

- To show that the value of \mathcal{F} is independent of the choice of generator q_i of the flag $E_{x_i, 2}$, let q_i, \tilde{q}_i be two different generators of $E_{x_i, 2}$. Then $\tilde{q}_i = \lambda_i q_i$ for some $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}^*$ and so (3.4) clearly implies that $\tilde{p}_i = \lambda_i^{-1} p_i$ and then $[p, q]_{\alpha-st} = [(\tilde{p}, \tilde{q})]_{\alpha-st}$.

- To show that \mathcal{J} does not depend on the choice of representative of the class of $[E, \Phi]$ one considers another PHB $\tilde{\mathbf{E}} = (\tilde{E}, \tilde{\Phi})$ in $[E, \Phi]$. Let (\tilde{p}, \tilde{q}) be coordinates determined from $\tilde{\mathbf{E}}$ by the recipe above and denote by \tilde{N}_i the residues of the Higgs field $\tilde{\Phi}$. Then there exists $g \in SL(2, \mathbb{C})$

such that $\tilde{E}_{x_i,2} = gE_{x_i,2}$ and so one can take $\tilde{q}_i = g q_i$, where q_i is a generator of $E_{x_i,2}$. Moreover, since the Higgs field $\tilde{\Phi}$ is obtained from Φ by conjugation with g , the residues \tilde{N}_i of $\tilde{\Phi}$ satisfy

$$\tilde{N}_i = g N_i g^{-1} \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, n.$$

Since \tilde{p}_i is determined by the equation $(\tilde{q}_i \tilde{p}_i)_0 = \tilde{N}_i$, one can easily see that

$$\tilde{p}_i = p_i g^{-1}$$

and so (\tilde{p}, \tilde{q}) is in the $K^{\mathbb{C}}$ -orbit of (p, q) .

Finally, from what was shown above it is clear that

$$\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{J}^{-1}.$$

□

This isomorphism allows us to identify $X(\alpha)$ and $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ as S^1 -spaces.

Proposition 3.9. *The isomorphism \mathcal{J} is S^1 -equivariant with respect to the S^1 -actions on $X(\alpha)$ and on $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ defined in (2.14) and in (2.28) respectively.*

Proof. The bundles $e^{i\theta} \cdot \mathcal{J}([p, q])$ and $\mathcal{J}(e^{i\theta} \cdot [p, q])$ are both topologically trivial and have the same parabolic structure. Moreover, the Higgs field $\Phi_{(e^{i\theta} p, q)}$ on $\mathcal{J}(e^{i\theta} \cdot [p, q])$ is uniquely determined by the residues

$$Res_{x_i} \Phi_{(e^{i\theta} p, q)} = (e^{i\theta} q_i p_i)_0 = e^{i\theta} Res_{x_i} \Phi_{(p, q)}$$

and hence

$$\Phi_{(e^{i\theta} p, q)} = e^{i\theta} \Phi_{(p, q)}.$$

Therefore, as PHBs,

$$e^{i\theta} \cdot \mathcal{J}([p, q]) = \mathcal{J}(e^{i\theta} \cdot [p, q])$$

and the isomorphism \mathcal{J} is S^1 -equivariant. □

Since the isomorphism $\mathcal{J} : X(\alpha) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(\beta)$ is S^1 -equivariant it maps the critical components of the moment map ϕ on $X(\alpha)$ to the critical components of the moment map f on $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ as well as the corresponding flow downs. This flow down is the restriction to $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ of the *nilpotent cone* of $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,2,0}^{0,\Lambda}$, following [33]-Section 5 and [13]-Section 3.5.

In particular, the moduli space of polygons $M(\alpha)$ is mapped to the moduli space $\mathcal{M}_{\beta,2,0}^{0,\Lambda}$ of rank-2, holomorphically trivial, fixed determinant parabolic bundles over \mathbb{CP}^1 . The fact that these two spaces are isomorphic has already been noted in [2] for small values of β .

Moreover, the critical components X_S in $X(\alpha)$ are mapped to the critical components $\mathcal{M}_{(0,S)}$ in $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ and each connected component of

the core U_S is isomorphic through \mathcal{I} to the component $\mathcal{U}_{(0,S)} := \mathcal{I}(U_S)$ of the nilpotent cone defined as the closure inside $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ of the set

$$(3.10) \quad \left\{ [E, \Phi] \in \mathcal{H}(\beta) \mid \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} [E, t \cdot \Phi] \in \mathcal{M}_{(0,S)} \right\}.$$

The nilpotent cone \mathcal{L}_β of $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ is then

$$\mathcal{L}_\beta := \mathcal{M}_{\beta,2,0}^0 \cup \bigcup_{S \in \mathcal{S}'(\alpha)} \mathcal{U}_{(0,S)},$$

and so $\mathcal{L}_\beta = \mathcal{I}(\mathfrak{L}_\alpha)$.

Example 6. Consider the case of 4 parabolic points as in Example 5. The closure of the flow down of the index-2 critical points $\mathcal{M}_{(1,\{1,2,3,4\})}$ and $\mathcal{M}_{(0,S_i)}$, $i = 1, 2, 3$ is a union of four spheres intersecting the minimal component at four distinct points. Consequently, the nilpotent cone of $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,2,0}^{0,\Lambda}$ is a union of five spheres arranged in a \tilde{D}_4 configuration [12] as in Figure 5. Restricting this nilpotent cone to $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ we loose the critical point $\mathcal{M}_{(1,\{1,2,3,4\})}$ and the corresponding flow down. Hence, the nilpotent cone of $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ is a union of four spheres arranged in a D_4 configuration just like the core of the associated hyperpolygon space $X(\alpha)$ (cf. Example 1).

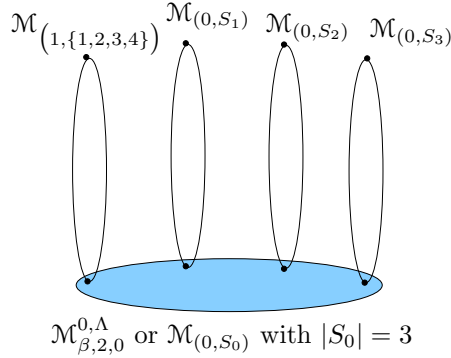


FIGURE 5. Nilpotent cone of $\mathcal{N}_{\beta,2,0}^{0,\Lambda}$ when $n = 4$: union of five spheres arranged in a \tilde{D}_4 configuration.

4. WALL CROSSING

The variation of moduli of PHBs has been studied in detail by Thaddeus in [35]. The construction in this Section is an adaptation of his work to the moduli space $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ of rank-2, topologically trivial PHBs over \mathbb{CP}^1 with fixed determinant and trace-free Higgs field considered in the previous section. As we have seen in Example 4, rank-2 PHBs over \mathbb{CP}^1 which are trivial as holomorphic bundles are semistable but

not stable with respect to the parabolic weights $\beta_1(x_i), \beta_2(x_i)$ if and only if

$$\varepsilon_S(\alpha) = 0$$

for some set $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$, with $\alpha = \beta_2 - \beta_1$. Hence, any such PHB must have an invariant line subbundle \mathbf{L} which is trivial as a holomorphic line bundle and satisfies

$$(4.1) \quad 0 = \sum_{i \in S_L} \alpha_i - \sum_{i \in S_L^c} \alpha_i$$

for $S_L = \{i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \mid \beta^L(x_i) = \beta_2(x_i)\}$, where $\beta^L(x_i)$ is the parabolic weight of L at x_i . We will call the set S_L the *discrete data* associated to a line subbundle \mathbf{L} of a strictly semistable PHB satisfying equation (4.1).

Let Q be the weight space of all possible values of $(\beta_1(x_j), \beta_2(x_j))$. It can be seen as the product

$$Q = \mathcal{S}_2^n \subset (\mathbb{R}_+)^{2n}$$

of n open simplices of dimension 2 determined by

$$0 \leq \beta_1(x_j) < \beta_2(x_j) < 1.$$

If the discrete data of a line subbundle is fixed, then (4.1) requires that the point $\beta \in Q$ belongs to the intersection of an affine hyperplane with Q . We will call such an intersection a *wall*. There is therefore a finite number of walls. Note that a set $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ and its complement give rise to the same wall and that on the complement of these walls the stability condition is equivalent to semistability. A connected component of this complement will be called a *chamber*. In this section we study how the moduli spaces $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ change when a wall is crossed.

Let us then choose a point in Q lying on only one wall W . A small neighborhood of this point intersects exactly two chambers, say Δ^+ and Δ^- and a PHB is Δ^+ -stable (respectively Δ^- -stable) if it is stable with respect to the weights $\beta \in \Delta^+$ (respectively Δ^-). If a PHB \mathbf{E} is Δ^- -stable but Δ^+ -unstable then it has a PH line subbundle \mathbf{L} (called a *destabilizing subbundle*) for which the stabilizing condition holds in Δ^- but fails in Δ^+ .

Let \mathcal{H}^+ and \mathcal{H}^- respectively denote the moduli space of Δ^+ and Δ^- -stable rank-2, fixed-determinant PHBs which are trivial as holomorphic bundles. Choosing the wall W is equivalent to choosing a set $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ for which (4.1) holds whenever $\beta \in W$. The only ambiguity is the possibility of exchanging S with S^c . Interchanging these sets if necessary one can assume without loss of generality that $\varepsilon_S(\alpha) > 0$

whenever $\beta \in \Delta^+$ with $\alpha = \beta_2 - \beta_1$. The following propositions then hold.

Proposition 4.2. *If \mathbf{E} is Δ^- -stable but Δ^+ -unstable then any destabilizing subbundle has discrete data S .*

Proof. As the weight β crosses from Δ^+ to Δ^- any destabilizing subbundle \mathbf{L}^+ of \mathbf{E} stops destabilizing. Hence the corresponding values of $\varepsilon_{S_L}(\alpha)$ change from positive to negative. This implies that \mathbf{L}^+ has discrete data $S_L = S$. \square

Proposition 4.3. *If \mathbf{E} is Δ^- -stable but Δ^+ -unstable then the destabilizing subbundle \mathbf{L}^+ is unique.*

Proof. Let \mathbf{L}^- be the quotient of \mathbf{E} by a destabilizing subbundle \mathbf{L}^+ (topologically trivial as well). If \mathbf{F} is another Δ^+ -destabilizing trivial line subbundle, then it must have discrete data S . There is then a non-trivial homomorphism $\mathbf{F} \rightarrow \mathbf{L}^-$ of PHBs and hence a nontrivial element of $\mathbb{H}^0(C^\bullet(\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{L}^-))$ (both \mathbf{F} and \mathbf{L}^- are trivially Δ^+ and Δ^- -stable). By Proposition 2.22, this is impossible since the two PHBs are not isomorphic. Indeed,

$$\text{pdeg } \mathbf{F} = \sum_{i \in S} \beta_2(x_i) + \sum_{i \in S^c} \beta_1(x_i),$$

while

$$\text{pdeg } \mathbf{L}^- = \sum_{i \in S} \beta_1(x_i) + \sum_{i \in S^c} \beta_2(x_i),$$

and so

$$\begin{aligned} \beta \in \Delta^+ &\Leftrightarrow \varepsilon_S(\alpha) > 0 \Leftrightarrow \sum_{i \in S} (\beta_2(x_i) - \beta_1(x_i)) > \sum_{i \in S^c} (\beta_2(x_i) - \beta_1(x_i)) \\ &\Leftrightarrow \text{pdeg } \mathbf{F} > \text{pdeg } \mathbf{L}^-. \end{aligned}$$

\square

Proposition 4.4. *Let \mathbf{L}^+ and \mathbf{L}^- be two line PHBs which are trivial as holomorphic line bundles with discrete data S and S^c . Then any extension of \mathbf{L}^- by \mathbf{L}^+ is Δ^+ -unstable and it is Δ^- -stable if and only if it is not split.*

Proof. The bundle \mathbf{L}^+ would be the destabilizing subbundle of such an extension \mathbf{E} so this extension would be Δ^+ -unstable. Moreover, if \mathbf{E} splits as $\mathbf{L}^+ \oplus \mathbf{L}^-$ then \mathbf{L}^- is the Δ^- -destabilizing subbundle of \mathbf{E} which would then be Δ^- -unstable.

Conversely, if the extension \mathbf{E} is Δ^- -unstable, the Δ^- -destabilizing bundle \mathbf{F} must not be Δ^+ -destabilizing and so it has discrete data S^c . The composition map

$$\mathbf{F} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{E} \longrightarrow \mathbf{L}^-$$

must then be a nontrivial homomorphism of PHBs since \mathbf{F} and \mathbf{L}^- have the same incidences with the flags (\mathbf{F} and \mathbf{L}^- both have discrete data S^c). Hence there is an element of $\mathbb{H}^0(C^\bullet(\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{L}^-))$ which, by Proposition 2.22, must be an isomorphism and so \mathbf{E} splits. \square

The above three propositions then give the following result.

Theorem 4.1. *If \mathbf{E} is Δ^- -stable but Δ^+ -unstable then it can be expressed uniquely as a nonsplit extension of PHBs*

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathbf{L}^+ \longrightarrow \mathbf{E} \longrightarrow \mathbf{L}^- \longrightarrow 0,$$

where \mathbf{L}^\pm are parabolic Higgs line bundles with discrete data S and S^c . Conversely, any such extension is Δ^- -stable but Δ^+ -unstable.

We will use this Theorem to see that \mathcal{H}^+ and \mathcal{H}^- have a common blow up with the same exceptional divisor. The loci in \mathcal{H}^\pm which are blown up (flip loci) are isomorphic to projective bundles $\mathbb{P}U^\pm \cong \mathbb{CP}^{n-3}$ over a product $\mathcal{N}^+ \times \mathcal{N}^-$ (a 0-dimensional manifold) of moduli spaces of parabolic Higgs line bundles which are trivial as holomorphic line bundles. Moreover, as we will see, the bundles U^+ and U^- are dual to each other and so $\mathbb{P}U^+$ and $\mathbb{P}U^-$ are projective bundles of the same rank over the same basis.

Let then \mathcal{N}^+ and \mathcal{N}^- be the moduli spaces of parabolic line Higgs bundles over \mathbb{CP}^1 which are trivial as holomorphic line bundles and have discrete data S and S^c respectively. By [7] the dimension of these spaces is

$$\dim \mathcal{N}^- = \dim \mathcal{N}^+ = 2(g-1)(r^2-1) + (r^2-r) = 0.$$

Moreover, \mathcal{N}^+ and \mathcal{N}^- are composed of just one point as any two parabolic line Higgs bundles which are trivial as holomorphic line bundles and have discrete data S (or S^c) are isomorphic (there is always a parabolic map between them). Hence the product $\mathcal{N}^+ \times \mathcal{N}^- = \{\text{pt}\}$.

Define \mathbf{L}^\pm to be the element in \mathcal{N}^\pm . Considering the complex $C^\bullet(\mathbf{L}^-, \mathbf{L}^+)$ and taking the hypercohomology

$$\mathbb{H}^*(C^\bullet(\mathbf{L}^-, \mathbf{L}^+))$$

one defines

$$U^- := \mathbb{H}^1(C^\bullet(\mathbf{L}^-, \mathbf{L}^+)) = (R^1)_*(C^\bullet(\mathbf{L}^-, \mathbf{L}^+))$$

and then, from the long exact sequence presented in Proposition 2.22, one obtains

$$(4.5) \quad \begin{aligned} 0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{H}^0(C^\bullet(\mathbf{L}^-, \mathbf{L}^+)) &\longrightarrow H^0(\text{ParHom}(L^-, L^+)) \longrightarrow \\ &\longrightarrow H^0(S\text{ParHom}(L^-, L^+) \otimes K_{\mathbb{CP}^1}(D)) \longrightarrow U^- \longrightarrow H^1(\text{ParHom}(L^-, L^+)) \longrightarrow \\ &\longrightarrow H^1(S\text{ParHom}(L^-, L^+) \otimes K_{\mathbb{CP}^1}(D)) \longrightarrow \mathbb{H}^2(C^\bullet(\mathbf{L}^-, \mathbf{L}^+)) \longrightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

Analogously, one can consider the complex $C^\bullet(\mathbf{L}^+, \mathbf{L}^-)$ and define

$$U^+ := \mathbb{H}^1(C^\bullet(\mathbf{L}^+, \mathbf{L}^-)) = (R^1)_*(C^\bullet(\mathbf{L}^+, \mathbf{L}^-))$$

and obtain a similar sequence. By Proposition 2.22 and Serre duality for hypercohomology (cf. Proposition 2.23) \mathbb{H}^0 and \mathbb{H}^2 vanish and so U^+ and U^- are locally free sheaves (hence vector bundles [3]) dual to each other:

$$U^- := \mathbb{H}^1(C^\bullet(\mathbf{L}^-, \mathbf{L}^+)) = \mathbb{H}^1(C^\bullet(\mathbf{L}^+, \mathbf{L}^-))^* = (U^+)^*.$$

As stated in Proposition 2.22(3), U^- parameterizes all extensions of the PHB in \mathcal{N}^- by that in \mathcal{N}^+ and so, as usual, the projectivization $\mathbb{P}U^-$ parameterizes all **nonsplit** extensions of the parabolic Higgs line bundle in \mathcal{N}^- by that in \mathcal{N}^+ (see for instance [28]). Following the exact sequence (4.5) one can see that the dimension of U^- is given by

$$\dim U^- = \chi(S\text{ParHom}(L^-, L^+) \otimes K_{\mathbb{CP}^1}(D)) - \chi(\text{ParHom}(L^-, L^+)).$$

Using (2.41) one obtains

$$\chi(\text{ParHom}(L^-, L^+)) = \chi(\text{Hom}(L^-, L^+)) + \sum_{i=1}^n (\dim P_{x_i}(L^-, L^+) - 1),$$

where $P_{x_i}(L^-, L^+)$ denotes the subspace of $\text{Hom}(L_{x_i}^-, L_{x_i}^+)$ formed by parabolic maps. Then, since

$$S_{L^-} = \{i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \mid \beta^{L^-}(x_i) = \alpha_2(x_i)\} = S^c$$

and

$$\dim P_{x_i}(L^-, L^+) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } i \in S_{L^-}^c \\ 0, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

one gets

$$\chi(\text{ParHom}(L^-, L^+)) = 1 - |S^c|,$$

where we used Riemann-Roch to compute

$$\begin{aligned} \chi(\text{Hom}(L^-, L^+)) &= \chi(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{O}(0), \mathcal{O}(0))) = \chi(\mathbb{CP}^1, \mathcal{O}(0)) \\ &= \text{rank}(\mathcal{O}(0))(1 - g) = 1. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, consider the short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{S}ParHom(L^-, L^+) \otimes K_{\mathbb{CP}^1}(D) \longrightarrow Hom(L^-, L^+) \otimes K_{\mathbb{CP}^1}(D) \longrightarrow \\ \longrightarrow Hom(L_D^-, L_D^+)/N_D(L^-, L^+) \longrightarrow 0,$$

where $Hom(L_D^-, L_D^+) = \bigoplus_{x \in D} Hom(L_x^-, L_x^+)$ and, where, denoting by $N_x(L^-, L^+)$ the subspace of $Hom(L_x^-, L_x^+)$ formed by strictly parabolic maps, $N_D(L^-, L^+) = \bigoplus_{x \in D} N_x(L^-, L^+)$. Then,

$$\chi(\mathcal{S}ParHom(L^-, L^+) \otimes K_{\mathbb{CP}^1}(D)) = \\ \chi(Hom(L^-, L^+) \otimes K_{\mathbb{CP}^1}(D)) + \sum_{x \in D} (\dim N_x - 1)$$

and so, since in this case $P_x(L^-, L^+) = N_x(L^-, L^+)$, one obtains

$$\chi(\mathcal{S}ParHom(L^-, L^+) \otimes K_{\mathbb{CP}^1}(D)) = \chi(K_{\mathbb{CP}^1}(D)) - |S^c| = n - 1 - |S^c|.$$

Here we used the fact that $Hom(L^-, L^+) = \mathcal{O}(0)$, and Riemann-Roch with $\deg(K_{\mathbb{CP}^1}) = -2$ and $\deg(\mathcal{O}(D)) = n$. One concludes that

$$\dim U^- = n - 1 - |S^c| - (1 - |S^c|) = n - 2$$

and so $U^- \cong \mathbb{C}^{n-2}$ and $\mathbb{P}U^- \cong \mathbb{CP}^{n-3}$.

Every parabolic Higgs bundle given by an element in $\mathbb{P}U^-$ is Δ^- -stable and so, by the universal property of the moduli space \mathcal{H}^- , there exists a morphism

$$\mathbb{CP}^{n-3} \cong \mathbb{P}U^- \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}^-$$

whose image is precisely the locus of PHBs which become unstable when the wall is crossed.

Let V^- be the cotangent bundle to $\mathbb{P}U^-$ and consider the corresponding map $\pi^- : \mathbb{P}V^- \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}U^-$. On the other hand, consider the Euler sequence of the cotangent bundle (see [23])

$$(4.6) \quad 0 \longrightarrow V^- \xrightarrow{\pi^+} (U^-)^* \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(-1) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-} \longrightarrow 0.$$

More explicitly, using the fact that

$$(U^-)^* \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(-1) = (U^-)^* \times U^- = U^+ \times U^-,$$

one has

$$0 \longrightarrow T^*\mathbb{CP}^{n-3} \xrightarrow{\pi^+} (U^-)^* \times U^- \longrightarrow \mathbb{CP}^{n-3} \times \mathbb{C} \longrightarrow 0 \\ ([\omega], \xi) \longmapsto (\omega, \xi) \longmapsto ([\omega], \xi(\omega))$$

where $[\omega] \in \mathbb{CP}^{n-3}$ and

$$\xi \in T_{[\omega]}^*\mathbb{CP}^{n-3} = [\omega]^\perp = \{\xi \in (U^-)^* \mid \xi(\omega) = 0\}.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}V^- &= \mathbb{P}(T^*\mathbb{P}U^-) \subset \mathbb{P}((U^-)^* \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(-1)) = \mathbb{P}((U^-)^* \times U^-) \\ &= \mathbb{P}((U^-)^*) \times \mathbb{P}(U^-) = \mathbb{P}(U^+) \times \mathbb{P}(U^-),\end{aligned}$$

the fiber $V_{[\omega]}^-$ over a line $[\omega] \in \mathbb{P}U^-$ is naturally isomorphic to the space of linear functionals $\xi : U^- \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ with $\xi(\omega) = 0$, and there is an induced map $\pi^+ : \mathbb{P}V^- \rightarrow \mathbb{P}U^+$. Moreover, one can identify $\mathbb{P}(T_{[\omega]}^*\mathbb{P}U^-)$ with $\mathbb{P}([\omega]^\perp)$ in a canonical way and for $[\xi] \in \mathbb{P}([\omega]^\perp)$ one defines an element $\sigma_\xi \in Gr_{n-3}(\mathbb{C}^{n-2})$ with $[\omega] \subset \sigma_\xi$ by

$$\sigma_\xi = \{v \in \mathbb{C}^{n-2} \mid \xi(v) = 0\}.$$

Then $[\xi] \mapsto ([\omega], \sigma_\xi)$ gives a diffeomorphism of $\mathbb{P}V^-$ onto the manifold of partial flags in $U^- = \mathbb{C}^{n-2}$ of type $(1, n-3)$ and $\pi^\pm : V^- \rightarrow \mathbb{P}U^\pm$ are the forgetful morphisms that discard one subspace.

As noted before $\mathbb{P}U^-$ parameterizes all nonsplit extensions of the bundle \mathbf{L}^- in \mathcal{N}^- by the bundle \mathbf{L}^+ in \mathcal{N}^+ . Over $\mathbb{P}U^- \times \mathbb{CP}^1$ there is a universal extension

$$(4.7) \quad 0 \rightarrow \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+ \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(1) \rightarrow \tilde{\mathbf{E}} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^- \rightarrow 0,$$

where, for $([\omega], x) \in \mathbb{P}U^- \times \mathbb{CP}^1$,

$$\tilde{\mathbf{L}}_{([\omega], x)}^+ = \mathbf{L}_x^+ \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\mathbf{L}}_{([\omega], x)}^- = \mathbf{L}_x^-$$

i.e., if we consider the projection $pr : \mathbb{P}U^- \times \mathbb{CP}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1$, we have

$$\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+ = pr^*\mathbf{L}^+ \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^- = pr^*\mathbf{L}^-.$$

Moreover, by the universal property, the extension $\tilde{\mathbf{E}}$ restricted to $\{[\omega]\} \times \mathbb{CP}^1$ is the extension $\mathbf{E}([\omega])$ of \mathbf{L}^- by \mathbf{L}^+ determined by the element $[\omega] \in \mathbb{P}U^-$. Extensions like (4.7) are parameterized by

$$\mathbb{H}^1\left(\mathbb{P}U^- \times \mathbb{CP}^1, C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-, \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+ \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(1))\right)$$

which by the Kunneth formula is isomorphic to

$$\mathbb{H}^1(\mathbb{CP}^1, C^\bullet(\mathbf{L}^-, \mathbf{L}^+)) \otimes \mathbb{H}^0(\mathbb{P}U^-, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(1)) = U^- \otimes (U^-)^* \cong \text{End}(U^-)$$

and one can show that the identity element in $\text{End}(U^-)$ defines the universal extension described above.

Now consider the long exact sequence associated to

$$(4.8) \quad 0 \rightarrow C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-, \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+ \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(1)) \rightarrow C_0'(\tilde{\mathbf{E}}) \rightarrow \left(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+) \oplus C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-)\right)_0 \rightarrow 0,$$

where $C_0'(\tilde{\mathbf{E}})$ is the subcomplex of $C_0^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{E}})$ associated to the subsheaves $ParEnd_0'(\tilde{E})$ and $SParEnd_0'(\tilde{E})$ of $ParEnd_0(\tilde{E})$ and $SParEnd_0(\tilde{E})$

preserving \mathbf{L}^+ , and $\left(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+) \oplus C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-)\right)_0$ is the complex formed by the direct sum of elements of $C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+)$ and $C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-)$ with symmetric trace. By Serre duality and Proposition 2.22 we know that

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{H}^0(C_0^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-)) &= \mathbb{H}^2(C_0^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-)) = 0, \\ \mathbb{H}^0(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+)) &= \mathbb{H}^2(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+)) = \mathbb{C}, \\ \mathbb{H}^0\left(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-, \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+ \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(1))\right) &= \mathbb{H}^2\left(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-, \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+ \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(1))\right) = 0.\end{aligned}$$

Moreover, again by Kunneth formula,

$$\begin{aligned}\dim \mathbb{H}^1(\mathbb{P}U^- \times \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1, C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+)) &= \\ \dim \left(\mathbb{H}^1(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1, C^\bullet(\mathbf{L}^+)) \otimes \mathbb{H}^0(\mathbb{P}U^-, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(1))\right) &= 0,\end{aligned}$$

since $\dim \mathbb{H}^1(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1, C^\bullet(\mathbf{L}^+)) = 0$ is the dimension of the moduli space of line PHBs over $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$ (cf. [7]). Then the long exact sequence associated to

$$0 \longrightarrow C_0^\bullet(\mathbf{L}^-) \longrightarrow \left(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+) \oplus C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-)\right)_0 \longrightarrow C^\bullet(\mathbf{L}^+) \longrightarrow 0$$

gives

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{H}^0\left(\left(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+) \oplus C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-)\right)_0\right) &= \mathbb{H}^2\left(\left(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+) \oplus C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-)\right)_0\right) = \mathbb{C} \\ \mathbb{H}^1\left(\left(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+) \oplus C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-)\right)_0\right) &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

Moreover, $\mathbb{H}^0(C_0^{\bullet'}(\tilde{\mathbf{E}})) = 0$ since $\mathbb{H}^0(C_0^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{E}})) = 0$ and $C_0^{\bullet'}(\tilde{\mathbf{E}})$ is a subcomplex of $C_0^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{E}})$. Hence, the long exact sequence associated to (4.8) gives

$$(4.9) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{C} \xrightarrow{a} \mathbb{H}^1\left(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-, \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+ \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(1))\right) \xrightarrow{b} \mathbb{H}^1(C_0^{\bullet'}(\tilde{\mathbf{E}})) \longrightarrow 0$$

and

$$(4.10) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{H}^2\left(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-, \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+ \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(1))\right) \longrightarrow \mathbb{H}^2(C_0^{\bullet'}(\tilde{\mathbf{E}})) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C} \longrightarrow 0.$$

The image of the map a must be the line spanned by the extension class ρ of $\tilde{\mathbf{E}}$. This follows from exactness of (4.9) and, from the fact that $\mathbb{H}^1(C_0^{\bullet'}(\tilde{\mathbf{E}}))$ classifies infinitesimal deformations of extensions and the deformation of any extension along its extension class is isomorphic to the trivial one, thus implying $\text{Ker } b = \langle \rho \rangle$.

On the other hand, since $\mathbb{P}U^-$ parameterizes a family of extensions of the PHB $\mathbf{L}^- \in \mathcal{N}^-$ by $\mathbf{L}^+ \in \mathcal{N}^+$, there is a natural map

$$T_{[\omega]}\mathbb{P}U^- \longrightarrow \mathbb{H}^1\left(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1, C_0^{\bullet'}(\mathbf{E}([\omega]))\right),$$

where the bundle $\mathbb{E}([\omega])$ is the extension determined by $[\omega]$. Therefore, one has the following maps between exact sequences

(4.11)

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & (V^-)^* & \xrightarrow{\cong} & T\mathbb{P}U^- & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow m & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{H}^1\left(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-, \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+ \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(1))\right) / \langle \rho \rangle & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \mathbb{H}^1(C_0^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{E}})) & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

and, since the map m is an isomorphism, one has that

$$(4.12) \quad T\mathbb{P}U^- \cong \mathbb{H}^1(C_0^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{E}})).$$

Let us now consider the long exact sequence associated to

$$0 \longrightarrow C_0^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{E}}) \longrightarrow C_0^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{E}}) \longrightarrow C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+ \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(1), \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-) \longrightarrow 0$$

which is

$$0 \longrightarrow T\mathbb{P}U^- \longrightarrow T\mathcal{H}^- \longrightarrow \mathbb{H}^1\left(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+ \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(1), \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-)\right) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C} \longrightarrow 0,$$

where we used (4.12), (4.10) and the fact that $T\mathcal{H}^- \cong \mathbb{H}^1(C_0^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{E}}))$. One concludes that the map $\mathbb{P}U^- \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}^-$ is an embedding (it is injective by Proposition 4.3) and that the map

$$T\mathcal{H}^- \cong \mathbb{H}^1(C_0^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{E}})) \longrightarrow \mathbb{H}^1(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+ \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(1), \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-)),$$

whose image is the normal bundle of $\mathbb{P}U^-$ inside \mathcal{H}^- , has corank 1. This map is Serre dual to the map

$$\mathbb{H}^1\left(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-, \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+ \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(1))\right) \longrightarrow \mathbb{H}^1(C_0^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{E}}))$$

which maps a deformation of the extension class ρ of $\tilde{\mathbf{E}}$ to a deformation of the bundle itself. Since a deformation in the direction of ρ itself is isomorphic to a trivial deformation, the kernel of this map is the line through ρ . We conclude then that the normal bundle of $\mathbb{P}U^-$ inside \mathcal{H}^- is the annihilator of ρ in $\mathbb{H}^1\left(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+ \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(1), \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-)\right)$ which by (4.11) is V^- .

Let $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^-$ be the blow up of \mathcal{H}^- along the image of the embedding $\mathbb{P}U^- \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}^-$ with exceptional divisor $\mathbb{P}V^-$. Moreover, since the roles of plus and minus in the above arguments are completely interchangeable one can consider the blow up $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^+$ of \mathcal{H}^+ along the image of the embedding $\mathbb{P}U^+ \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}^+$ with exceptional divisor $\mathbb{P}V^+$. Then we have the following result.

Proposition 4.13. *There is an isomorphism $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^- \leftrightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{H}}^+$ such that the following diagram commutes*

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathcal{H}^- \setminus \mathbb{P}U^- & \longrightarrow & \tilde{\mathcal{H}}^- & \longleftarrow & \mathbb{P}V^- \\ \updownarrow & & \updownarrow & & \updownarrow \\ \mathcal{H}^+ \setminus \mathbb{P}U^+ & \longrightarrow & \tilde{\mathcal{H}}^+ & \longleftarrow & \mathbb{P}V^+. \end{array}$$

Proof. Let $\tilde{\mathbf{E}}$ be the universal PHB over $\mathcal{H}^- \times \mathbb{CP}^1$. By uniqueness of families of extensions, the restriction $\tilde{\mathbf{E}}|_{\mathbb{P}U^- \times \mathbb{CP}^1}$ is isomorphic to the universal extension of $\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-$ by $\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+ \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}U^-}(1)$ tensored by the pull-back of a line bundle F over $\mathbb{P}U^-$. Then the pull-back of $\tilde{\mathbf{E}}$ to $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^- \times \mathbb{CP}^1$ restricted to $\mathbb{P}V^- \times \mathbb{CP}^1$ has $\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+ \otimes F(1)$ as a sub PHB. Let $\tilde{\mathbf{E}}'$ be the elementary modification of the pull-back of $\tilde{\mathbf{E}}$ to $\mathcal{H}^- \times \mathbb{CP}^1$ along $\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+ \times F(1)$ as in Proposition 4.1 of [35]. Then, for $x \notin \mathbb{P}V^-$, $\tilde{\mathbf{E}}'_{\{x\} \times \mathbb{CP}^1} = \tilde{\mathbf{E}}_{\{x\} \times \mathbb{CP}^1}$ while for $x \in \mathbb{P}V^-$, $\tilde{\mathbf{E}}'_{\{x\} \times \mathbb{CP}^1}$ is an extension of $\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+$ by $\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-$ with extension class $\rho_x \in \mathbb{H}^1(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+, \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-))$ obtained as the image of the normal space $\mathcal{N}_x(\mathbb{P}V^-/\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^-)$ (see [35] for details). Indeed, at every point $x \in \mathbb{P}V^-$ there are deformation maps

$$T_x \tilde{\mathcal{H}}^- \longrightarrow \mathbb{H}^1(C_0^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{E}})) \quad \text{and} \quad T_x \mathbb{P}V^- \longrightarrow \mathbb{H}^1(C_0^{\bullet'}(\tilde{\mathbf{E}}))$$

and then the short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow C_0^{\bullet'}(\tilde{\mathbf{E}}) \longrightarrow C_0^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{E}}) \longrightarrow C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+, \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-) \longrightarrow 0$$

determines a well-defined map from the (1-dimensional) normal space $\mathcal{N}_x(\mathbb{P}V^-/\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^-)$ to $\mathbb{H}^1(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}^+, \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^-))$, giving a class ρ_x well-defined up to a scalar.

We then have the following commutative diagram for $x \in \mathbb{P}V^-$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} T_x \tilde{\mathcal{H}}^- & \longrightarrow & T_{\pi^-(x)} \mathcal{H}^- & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{H}^1(C_0^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{E}}(x))) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{N}_x(\mathbb{P}V^-/\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^-) & \longrightarrow & V_{\pi^-(x)}^- & \xrightarrow{\pi^+} & \mathbb{H}^1(C^\bullet(\tilde{\mathbf{L}}_x^+, \tilde{\mathbf{L}}_x^-)), \end{array}$$

where we used the fact that

$$\pi^-(\mathcal{N}_x(\mathbb{P}V^-/\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^-)) = \mathcal{N}_{\pi^-(x)}(\mathbb{P}U^-/\mathcal{H}^-) = V_{\pi^-(x)}^-,$$

as well as Proposition 2.22 adapted to the traceless situation. This defines a map $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^- \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathcal{H}^+$ which is an isomorphism away from the exceptional divisor $\mathbb{P}V^-$ and such that for $x \in \mathbb{P}V^-$ gives $\varphi(x) = \pi^+(x)$,

where π^+ is the forgetful morphism defined by the Euler sequence as in (4.6).

Interchanging plus and minus signs in the above argument one obtains maps

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^- \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}^+ \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\mathcal{H}}^+ \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}^-.$$

Using these along with the blow-down maps $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^\pm \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}^\pm$ one obtains injections of $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^+$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^-$ into $\mathcal{H}^+ \times \mathcal{H}^-$. Clearly these maps are embeddings and their images are both equal to the closure of the image of $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^\pm \setminus \mathbb{P}V^\pm$ and the result follows. \square

4.1. Wall-crossing for hyperpolygons. Now that we have studied the changes in $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ as β crosses a wall we will use the isomorphism constructed in Section 3 to analyze the behavior of the corresponding spaces of hyperpolygons $X(\alpha)$ (with $\alpha = \beta_2 - \beta_1$). First note that by rescaling if necessary one can assume that all hyperpolygon spaces considered in this section have weights $\alpha_i < 1$.

Let W be a wall separating two adjacent chambers $\tilde{\Delta}^-$ and $\tilde{\Delta}^+$ of admissible values of α and let S be an index set in $\{1, \dots, n\}$ associated to W . Exchanging S with S^c if necessary one can assume that S is short for every $\tilde{\alpha}^- \in \tilde{\Delta}^-$ and long for every $\alpha^+ \in \tilde{\Delta}^+$. Then one sees that the corresponding spaces of PHBs suffer a Mukai transformation as described above for $\mathcal{H}(\beta^\pm)$. Note that the wall W uniquely determines a wall in Q (defined by the same equation $\varepsilon_S(\alpha) = 0$) separating two chambers $\Delta^+, \Delta^- \subset Q$ of nongeneric parabolic weights.

Let X^\pm be hyperpolygon spaces for values $\alpha^\pm \in \tilde{\Delta}^\pm$. Then X^+ and X^- suffer a Mukai transformation where X^- is blown up along an embedded \mathbb{CP}^{n-3} and then blown down in the dual direction giving rise to a new embedded \mathbb{CP}^{n-3} . Therefore, one sees (as observed by Konno in [25]) that X^+ and X^- are diffeomorphic. Let us study this transformation in more detail.

The embedded \mathbb{CP}^{n-3} that is blown-up in X^- corresponds to $\mathbb{P}U^-$ in \mathcal{H}^- by the isomorphism of Theorem 3.1. In fact, $\mathbb{P}U^-$ is the space of PHBs in \mathcal{H}^- that are not stable for $\beta^+ \in \Delta^+$. Hence, any PHB \mathbf{E} in $\mathbb{P}U^-$ has a destabilizing subbundle \mathbf{L} which is topologically trivial and is such that

$$S = S_L = \{i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \mid L_{x_i} = E_{x_i, 2}\}$$

is a maximal straight set. Moreover, as seen in the proof of Theorem 3.1 the fact that \mathbf{E} is Δ^- -stable implies that the corresponding hyperpolygon $\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{E}) = [p, q]_{\alpha-\text{st}}$ in X^- satisfies $p_i = 0$ for every $i \in S^c$.

By stability of hyperpolygons (cf. Theorem 2.1) one has that S is $\tilde{\Delta}^-$ -short. Hence, the image of $\mathbb{P}U^-$ under the isomorphism \mathcal{F} is the core component $U_S^- \cong \mathbb{CP}^{n-3}$ (cf. Theorem 2.18).

Similarly, one concludes that $\mathbb{P}U^+$ corresponds to $U_{S^c}^+ \cong \mathbb{CP}^{n-3}$ in X^+ and so we have the following result.

Theorem 4.2. *Let X^+ and X^- be hyperpolygon spaces for α^+ and α^- on either side of a wall W of discrete data S . Then X^- and X^+ are related by a Mukai transformation where X^\pm have a common blow up obtained by blowing up X^- along the core component U_S^- and by blowing up X^+ along the core component $U_{S^c}^+$. The common exceptional divisor is a partial flag bundle $\mathbb{P}(T^*\mathbb{CP}^{n-3}) \cong \mathbb{P}(T^*U_S^-) \cong \mathbb{P}(U_{S^c}^+)$.*

Even though X^+ and X^- are diffeomorphic they are not isomorphic as S^1 -spaces, for the S^1 -action in (2.14), and the corresponding cores

$$\mathfrak{L}_{\alpha^\pm} = M(\alpha^\pm) \cup \bigcup_{B \in \mathcal{S}'(\alpha^\pm)} U_B^\pm$$

do change under the Mukai transformation.

All the fixed point set components X_B^- with $B \in \mathcal{S}'(\alpha^-)$ remain unchanged except for $X_S^- \simeq \mathbb{CP}^{|S|-2}$ which is substituted by $X_{S^c}^+ \cong \mathbb{CP}^{|S^c|-2}$.

The fixed point set component $M(\alpha^-)$ suffers a blow up along

$$U_S^- \cap M(\alpha^-) = M_S(\alpha^-)$$

followed by a blow down resulting in a new polygon space $M_{S^c}(\alpha^+) = U_{S^c}^+ \cap M(\alpha^+)$ embedded in $U_{S^c}^+$ (see Section 2.1.2).

The core components U_B^- for which $B \cap S \neq \emptyset$ but $B \not\subset S$ are not affected by the Mukai transformation and remain unchanged as U_B^+ . Indeed, since S is a maximal Δ^- -short set, $B \cup S$ is long and so $U_S^- \cap U_B^- = \emptyset$.

If $B \subsetneq S$ then

$$U_B^- \cap U_S^- = \{[p, q] \in U_S^- \mid p_j = 0 \text{ for all } j \in S \setminus B\}$$

and so U_B^- suffers a blow up along $U_B^- \cap U_S^-$ followed by a blow down of the exceptional divisor

$$V_B = \mathbb{P}(T^*(U_B^- \cap U_S^-)),$$

resulting in the core component U_B^+ . Note that if one blows up U_B^+ along $U_B^+ \cap U_{S^c}^+ = M_B^+ \cap M_{S^c}^+$ (since $B \cap S^c = \emptyset$), one obtains the exceptional divisor V_B inside the common blow up of U_B^- and U_B^+ .

Finally, if $B \subset S^c$ then U_B^- suffers a blow up along

$$U_B^- \cap U_S^- = M_B^- \cap M_S^-$$

followed by a blow down of the exceptional divisor V_B resulting in the core component U_B^+ . Again, if one blows up U_B^+ along

$$U_B^+ \cap U_{S^c}^+ = \{[p, q] \in U_{S^c}^+ \mid p_j = 0 \text{ for all } j \in S^c \setminus B\},$$

one obtains the exceptional divisor V_B .

Example 7. Let $n = 5$ and consider $\alpha^- = (2, 1, 5, 1, 2)$ and $\alpha^+ = (3, 1, 5, 1, 2)$ on either side of the wall W_S with $S = \{1, 2, 5\}$. The corresponding collections of short sets of cardinality greater or equal to 2 are

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}'(\alpha^-) = \{ & \{1, 2\}, \{1, 4\}, \{1, 5\}, \{2, 4\}, \{2, 5\}, \{4, 5\}, \{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 2, 5\}, \\ & \{1, 4, 5\}, \{2, 4, 5\} \} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}'(\alpha^+) = \{ & \{1, 2\}, \{1, 4\}, \{1, 5\}, \{2, 4\}, \{2, 5\}, \{3, 4\}, \{4, 5\}, \{1, 2, 4\}, \\ & \{1, 4, 5\}, \{2, 4, 5\} \}. \end{aligned}$$

Crossing the wall W_S we see that the core component $U_{\{1,2,5\}}^- \cong \mathbb{CP}^2$ disappears as a result of the Mukai transformation, being replaced by the new core component $U_{\{3,4\}}^+ \cong \mathbb{CP}^2$. The other core components affected are those relative to elements of $\mathcal{S}'(\alpha^-)$ which are subsets of S (i.e. $\{1, 5\}$, $\{1, 2\}$ and $\{2, 5\}$). In Figures 6 and 7 we represent these changes. There, the critical components are pictured by shaded ellipses or dots (when 0-dimensional) while other ellipses represent copies of \mathbb{CP}^1 flowing between two fixed points.

Remark 4.14. By the above arguments it is clear that the submanifolds $\mathbb{P}U^-$ and $\mathbb{P}U^+$ of \mathcal{H}^- and \mathcal{H}^+ involved in the Mukai flop are the nilpotent cone components $\mathcal{U}_{(0,S)} \subset \mathcal{H}^-$ and $\mathcal{U}_{(0,S^c)} \subset \mathcal{H}^+$, defined as the closure of the flow-down set (3.10). Moreover, the changes in the different core components of X^\pm as one crosses a wall translate to changes in the corresponding components of the nilpotent cone in \mathcal{H}^\pm . In particular the birational map between polygon spaces $M(\alpha^\pm)$ studied in [29] and described in Section 2.1.2 translates to the birational map between $\mathcal{M}_{\beta^\pm, 2, 0}^{0, \Lambda}$ studied in [6] and described in Section 2.2.3.

5. INTERSECTION NUMBERS FOR HYPERPOLYGON SPACES

The intersection numbers of polygon spaces $M(\alpha)$ are computed in [1]. In this section we give explicit formulas for the computation of the intersection numbers of the remaining core components U_S for $S \in \mathcal{S}'(\alpha)$.

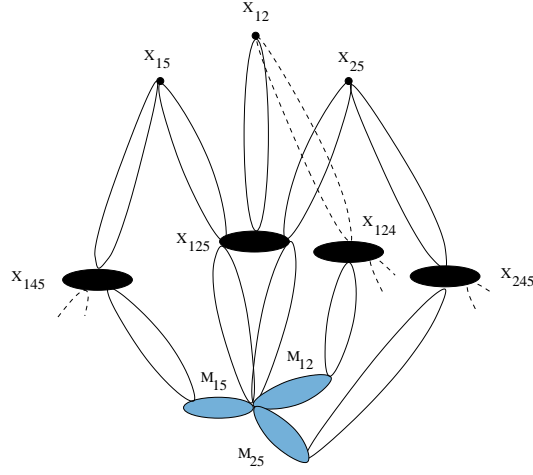


FIGURE 6. Relevant part of the core of $X(\alpha^-)$ before crossing the wall $W_{\{1,2,5\}}$.

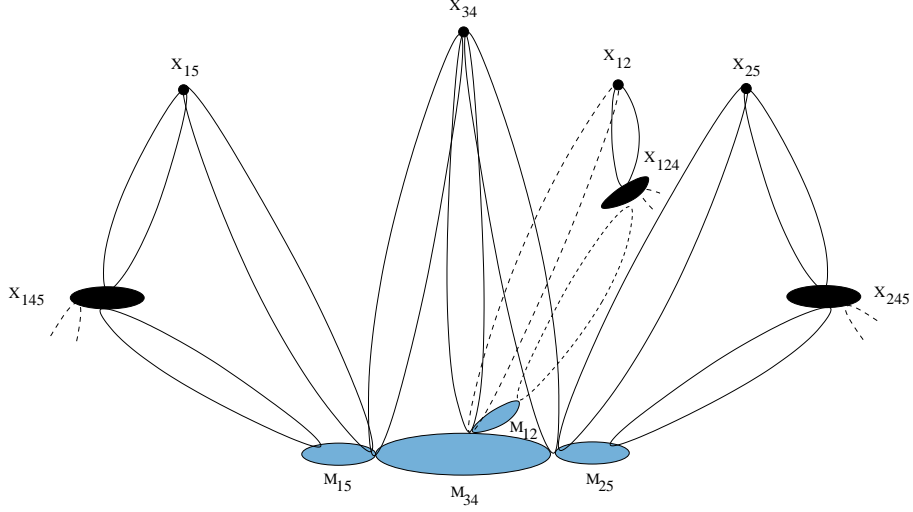


FIGURE 7. Relevant part of the core of $X(\alpha^+)$ after crossing the wall $W_{\{1,2,5\}}$.

5.1. Circle bundles. As in [25] one constructs circle bundles over $X(\alpha)$ as follows. For each $1 \leq i \leq n$ one can define the spaces

$$\tilde{Q}_i = \left\{ (p, q) \in \mu_{\mathbb{R}}^{-1}(0, \alpha) \cap \mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(0) \mid (q_i q_i^* - p_i^* p_i)_0 = \begin{pmatrix} t & 0 \\ 0 & -t \end{pmatrix}, t > 0 \right\}.$$

Note that the vectors $(q_i q_i^* - p_i^* p_i)_0$ live in $\mathfrak{isu}(2) \cong \mathfrak{su}(2)^* \cong \mathbb{R}^3$ and that, under this identification, \tilde{Q}_i is the set of points (p, q) for which

$(q_i q_i^* - p_i^* p_i)_0 = (0, 0, \alpha_i + |p_i|^2)$. One then considers the representation

$$\rho_{SO(3)} : K \longrightarrow SO(3) \simeq SO(\mathfrak{su}(2))$$

defined by

$$\rho_{SO(3)}([A, e_1, \dots, e_n]) = \text{Ad}(A),$$

where Ad is the adjoint representation of $SU(2)$, and take the quotient

$$Q_i := \tilde{Q}_i / \ker \rho_{SO(3)}.$$

Define an S^1 -action on Q_i by the following injective homomorphism of S^1 into K

$$(5.1) \quad \iota_{Q_i}(e^{it}) = \left[\begin{pmatrix} e^{it} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-it} \end{pmatrix}, 1, \dots, 1 \right].$$

Since $\iota_{Q_i}^{-1}(\ker \rho_{SO(3)}) = \{\pm 1\}$, one gets an effective (right) $S^1/\{\pm 1\}$ -action on Q_i thus obtaining a principal $S^1/\{\pm 1\}$ -bundle over $X(\alpha)$. The line bundle associated to Q_i is then

$$L_i = Q_i \times_{\rho_i} \mathbb{C},$$

where $\rho_i : K \longrightarrow S^1$ is the representation given by

$$\rho_i([A, e_1, \dots, e_n]) = e_i^2$$

(see Section 6 in [26]). Restricting the bundle Q_i to the polygon space $M(\alpha)$ one obtains a principal circle bundle $Q_i|_{M(\alpha)} \longrightarrow M(\alpha)$. Comparing it with the S^1 -bundle $V_i \longrightarrow M(\alpha)$ considered in [1] and given by

$$(5.2) \quad V_i := \left\{ v \in \prod_{j=1}^n S_{\alpha_j}^2 \mid \sum_{j=1}^n v_j = 0, \text{ and } v_i = (0, 0, \alpha_i) \right\},$$

where the circle acts by standard rotation around the z -axis, one sees that

$$c_1(V_i) = -c_1(Q_i|_{M(\alpha)})$$

since the S^1 -action on Q_i is a right action.

For this reason, we will work instead with the circle bundles

$$\tilde{V}_i \longrightarrow X(\alpha)$$

defined as the principal circle bundles over $X(\alpha)$ associated to the dual line bundles L_i^* . Note that, under the identification of $\mathfrak{isu}(2) \cong \mathfrak{su}(2)^* \cong \mathbb{R}^3$, the circle acts on \tilde{V}_i by standard (left) rotation around the z -axis and so

$$\tilde{V}_i|_{M(\alpha)} = V_i.$$

From now on we will denote the first Chern classes of these bundles by

$$c_j := c_1(\tilde{V}_j) \in H^2(X(\alpha), \mathbb{R}).$$

Performing reduction in stages one can see hyperpolygon spaces

$$X(\alpha) := \frac{\mu_{\mathbb{R}}^{-1}(0, \alpha) \cap \mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(0)}{K}$$

as a quotient of a product of the cotangent bundles $T^*S_{\alpha_i}^2$ by $SO(3)$. Consider then the diagonal S^1 -action on

$$(5.3) \quad T^*S_{\alpha_1}^2 \times \cdots \times T^*S_{\alpha_n}^2$$

given by the following injective homomorphism of S^1 into $SU(2)/\pm I$

$$\iota(e^{it}) = \left[\begin{pmatrix} e^{it} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{it} \end{pmatrix} \right].$$

This action is Hamiltonian with moment map

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{S^1} : \prod_{i=1}^n T^*S_{\alpha_i}^2 &\longrightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ (p, q) &\mapsto \zeta\left(\sum_{i=1}^n (q_i q_i^* - p_i^* p_i)_0\right), \end{aligned}$$

where $\zeta(x, y, z) = z$ is the height of the endpoint of $\sum_{i=1}^n (q_i q_i^* - p_i^* p_i)_0$ under the usual identification of $\mathfrak{su}(2)^*$ with \mathbb{R}^3 .

In analogy with the polygon space case one defines the abelian hyperpolygon space

$$\mathcal{A}X(\alpha) = \left\{ (p, q) \in \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} T^*S_{\alpha_i}^2 \mid \zeta\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (q_i q_i^* - p_i^* p_i)_0\right) = \alpha_n \right\}$$

which is the set of those (p, q) for which the vector $\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (q_i q_i^* - p_i^* p_i)_0$ in \mathbb{R}^3 ends on the plane $z = \alpha_n$ modulo rotations around the z -axis. (Here we take $S^1 \simeq SO(2)$ as a subgroup of $SO(3)$ acting on the right.) It is the symplectic quotient of

$$(5.4) \quad \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} T^*S_{\alpha_i}^2$$

by the above circle action,

$$\mathcal{A}X(\alpha) = \mu_{S^1}^{-1}(\alpha_n)/S^1,$$

and so it is a symplectic manifold of dimension $4n - 6$.

Remark 5.5. It is always possible to act on any element $[p, q]$ of $X(\alpha)$ by an element of K in such a way that the vector $\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (q_i q_i^* - p_i^* p_i)_0$ ends not only on the plane $z = \alpha_n$ but also so that $(q_n q_n^* - p_n^* p_n)_0$ points downwards.

Since α is generic, the circle acts freely on the level set $B := \mu_{S^1}^{-1}(\alpha_n)$ and so $B \rightarrow \mathcal{A}X(\alpha)$ is a principal circle bundle. Moreover, one has the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Q_n(\alpha) & \xrightarrow{\tilde{i}} & B \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X(\alpha) & \xrightarrow{i} & \mathcal{A}X(\alpha) \end{array}$$

where the inclusion $\tilde{i} : Q_n(\alpha) \rightarrow B$ is anti-equivariant since, in the identification of $X(\alpha)$ as a submanifold of $\mathcal{A}X(\alpha)$, the vector $(q_n q_n^* - p_n^* p_n)_0$ must face downward (see Remark 5.5). Therefore,

$$c_n := c_1(\tilde{V}_n) = -c_1(Q_n) = i^*(c_1(B)).$$

On the other hand, since $\mathcal{A}X(\alpha)$ is the reduced space

$$\mu_{S^1}^{-1}(\alpha_n)/S^1 = B/S^1,$$

one has by the Duistermaat Heckmann Theorem that

$$c_1(B) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha_n} [\omega_{\mathbb{R}}]$$

in $H^2(\mathcal{A}X(\alpha), \mathbb{R})$, and so

$$c_n = \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha_n} [\omega_{\mathbb{R}}]$$

in $H^2(X(\alpha), \mathbb{R})$. By symmetry, interchanging the order of the spheres in (5.4), one obtains

$$(5.6) \quad c_j = \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha_j} [\omega_{\mathbb{R}}].$$

It is shown in [25] and [16] that these classes generate $H^*(X(\alpha), \mathbb{Q})$.

5.2. Dual homology classes. In this section we determine homology classes representing the first Chern classes $c_j \in H^2(X(\alpha), \mathbb{Q})$. For that consider i and j , $1 \leq i, j \leq n$, with $i \neq j$ and denote by $D_{i,j}(\alpha)$ the submanifold of $X(\alpha)$ formed by hyperpolygons $[p, q]$ for which $(q_i q_i^* - p_i^* p_i)_0$ and $(q_j q_j^* - p_j^* p_j)_0$ are parallel as vectors in \mathbb{R}^3 . It is not restrictive to assume that both these vectors are parallel to the z -axis. Clearly $D_{i,j}(\alpha)$ has two connected components

$$\begin{aligned} D_{i,j}^+(\alpha) &= \{[p, q] \in D_{i,j}(\alpha) \mid \langle (q_i q_i^* - p_i^* p_i)_0, (q_j q_j^* - p_j^* p_j)_0 \rangle > 0\} \\ D_{i,j}^-(\alpha) &= \{[p, q] \in D_{i,j}(\alpha) \mid \langle (q_i q_i^* - p_i^* p_i)_0, (q_j q_j^* - p_j^* p_j)_0 \rangle < 0\}. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover one has the following result.

Proposition 5.7. *The circle bundle*

$$\tilde{V}_j|_{X(\alpha) \setminus D_{i,j}(\alpha)} \xrightarrow{\pi_j} X(\alpha) \setminus D_{i,j}(\alpha)$$

has a section $s_{i,j} : X(\alpha) \setminus D_{i,j}(\alpha) \rightarrow \tilde{V}_j|_{X(\alpha) \setminus D_{i,j}(\alpha)}$.

Proof. Let $[p, q] \in X(\alpha)$ and take $i \neq j$. Then assign to $[p, q]$ the unique element in $\pi_j^{-1}([p, q])$ for which $(q_i q_i^* - p_i^* p_i)_0$ projects onto the xOy -plane along the positive y -axis. Such a representative always exists in $\pi_j^{-1}([p, q])$ as long as $[p, q] \notin D_{i,j}(\alpha)$. \square

On the other hand, let us consider the function

$$\tilde{t}_j : \mu_{\mathbb{R}}^{-1}(0, \alpha) \cap \mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(0) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

defined by

$$\tilde{t}_j(p, q) = \begin{cases} \frac{b_j}{c_j}, & \text{if } c_j \neq 0 \\ -\frac{a_j}{d_j}, & \text{if } d_j \neq 0, \end{cases}$$

where, as usual, $p_j = (a_j, b_j)$ and $q_j = \begin{pmatrix} c_j \\ d_j \end{pmatrix}$. This map is well-defined since, if $c_j, d_j \neq 0$, one has by (2.4) that

$$\frac{b_j}{c_j} = -\frac{a_j}{d_j}.$$

Moreover, it is K -equivariant with respect to $\bar{\rho}_j$ since

$$\bar{t}_j((p, q) \cdot [A, e_1, \dots, e_n]) = e_j^{-2} \bar{t}_j(p, q),$$

and so it induces a section t_j of L_j vanishing on

$$W_j := \{[p, q] \in X(\alpha) \mid p_j = 0\}.$$

Hence we obtain the following proposition.

Proposition 5.8. *The line bundle $L_j|_{X(\alpha) \setminus W_j} \xrightarrow{\pi_j} X(\alpha) \setminus W_j$ has a section.*

We conclude that c_j is represented in Borel-Moore homology by both $D_{i,j}(\alpha)$ ($i \neq j$) and by $-W_j$.

5.3. Restriction to a core component. We will restrict the circle bundles defined in the previous sections to a core component U_S and determine the Poincaré Dual of the Chern classes of these restrictions. For that, recall that $D_{i,j}(\alpha)$ has two connected components $D_{i,j}^{\pm}(\alpha)$. Then, if $i \neq j$ and $i, j \notin S$, the intersection $D_{i,j}^{\pm}(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)$ is diffeomorphic to a core component $U_S(\alpha^{\pm})$ for a lower dimensional hyperpolygon space $X(\alpha^{\pm})$.

Proposition 5.9. *Assuming $S = \{1, \dots, |S|\}$ and $\alpha_i > \alpha_j$ with $i, j \notin S$ there exist diffeomorphisms*

$$s_{\pm} : D_{i,j}^{\pm}(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha) \longrightarrow U_S(\alpha^{\pm}),$$

with

(5.10)

$$s_{\pm}([p, q]) = \left[p_1, \dots, p_{|S|}, 0, \dots, 0, q_1, \dots, \hat{q}_i, \dots, \hat{q}_j, \dots, q_n, \sqrt{\frac{\alpha_i \pm \alpha_j}{\alpha_i}} q_i \right],$$

where

$$\alpha_{i,j}^{\pm} := (\alpha_1, \dots, \hat{\alpha}_i, \dots, \hat{\alpha}_j, \dots, \alpha_n, \alpha_i \pm \alpha_j).$$

Remark 5.11. By permutation it is not restrictive to assume $S = \{1, \dots, |S|\}$. Moreover, note that both $\alpha_{i,j}^{\pm}$ are generic provided that α is.

Proof. From [16] we know that $U_S(\alpha)$ is homeomorphic to the moduli space of $n + 1$ vectors

$$\{u_l, v_k, w \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid l \in S, k \in S^c\}$$

satisfying conditions 1) to 5) in Theorem 2.3, taken up to rotation. Moreover, in $D_{i,j}^{\pm}(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)$ one has $v_j = \lambda v_i$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{\pm}$ and so one can trivially identify this intersection with the moduli space of n vectors

$$\{u_l, v_{|S|+1}, \dots, \hat{v}_i, \dots, \hat{v}_j, \dots, v_n, v_i \pm v_j, w \mid l \in S\}$$

satisfying

- 1) $w + v_{|S|+1} + \dots + v_{i-1} + v_{i+1} + \dots + v_{j-1} + v_{j+1} + \dots + v_n + (v_i \pm v_j) = 0$
- 2) $\sum_{l \in S} u_l = 0$
- 3) $u_l \cdot w = 0$, for all $l \in S$
- 4) $\|v_k\| = \alpha_k$, $k \neq i, j$ $k \in S^c$, $\|v_i \pm v_j\| = \alpha_i \pm \alpha_j$
- 5) $\|w\| = \sum_{l \in S} \sqrt{\alpha_l^2 + \|u_l\|^2}$,

which, in turn, is homeomorphic to $U_S(\alpha^{\pm})$ (cf. Figure 8). The composition of these homeomorphisms defines the map

$$s_{\pm} : D_{i,j}^{\pm}(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha) \longrightarrow U_S(\alpha^{\pm})$$

of (5.10). Note that the map s_{\pm} is clearly a diffeomorphism between the two manifolds. \square

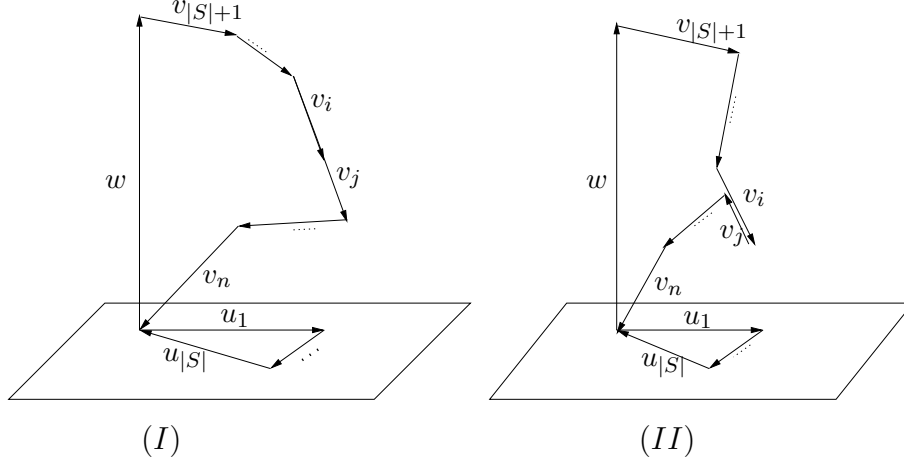


FIGURE 8. (I) A hyperpolygon in $D_{i,j}^+(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)$; (II) A hyperpolygon in $D_{i,j}^-(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)$.

We conclude that the manifolds $D_{i,j}^\pm(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)$ are connected and symplectic and so we can orient them using the symplectic form by requiring

$$\int_{D_{i,j}^\pm(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)} (i_S^\pm \circ s_\pm)^*(\omega_{\mathbb{R}}^\pm)^{n-4} > 0,$$

where

$$i_S^\pm : U_S(\alpha^\pm) \longrightarrow X(\alpha^\pm)$$

is the natural inclusion map. One obtains in this way two generators of

$$H_{2(n-4)}(D_{i,j}^\pm(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)),$$

namely $[D_{i,j}^+(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)]$ and $[D_{i,j}^-(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)]$. Hence, to determine the Poincaré dual of the class $i_S^* c_j$, where $i_S : U_S(\alpha) \longrightarrow X(\alpha)$ is the inclusion map, one just has to determine constants $a_{i,j}, b_{i,j}$ as follows.

Proposition 5.12. *Let $i : D_{i,j}(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha) \longrightarrow X(\alpha)$ be the inclusion map. If $\alpha_i \neq \alpha_j$ and $i, j \notin S$ then the Poincaré dual of $i_S^* c_j$ is in $i_* H_{2(n-4)}(D_{i,j}(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha))$ and can be written as*

$$a_{i,j}[D_{i,j}^+(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)] + b_{i,j}[D_{i,j}^-(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)],$$

where

$$a_{i,j} = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad b_{i,j} = \text{sgn}(\alpha_i - \alpha_j).$$

Proof. For simplicity, consider $i = n - 1$, $j = n$ and $S = \{1, \dots, |S|\}$. Then take a fixed element in $U_S(\alpha)$ with $p_i = 0$ for all $i \geq 3$. Let (p^0, q^0) be a fixed representative of this class. Consider the subvariety N of

$U_S(\alpha)$ defined by the elements $[(p, q)]$ of $U_S(\alpha)$ with $p_i = p_i^0$ for all i and $q_i = q_i^0$ for $i = 1, \dots, n-3$. This subvariety N is thus obtained by fixing p_i for all i , and q_i for all $i \leq n-3$, allowing only to vary the last three values q_{n-2} , q_{n-1} and q_n (noting that the corresponding coordinates of p are $p_{n-2} = p_{n-1} = p_n = 0$). It is then symplectomorphic to the moduli space of polygons in \mathbb{R}^3

$$M(l, \alpha_{n-2}, \alpha_{n-1}, \alpha_n),$$

with

$$l = \left\| \sum_{k=1}^{n-3} (q_k^0 (q_k^0)^*)_0 - ((p_1^0)^* p_1^0)_0 - ((p_2^0)^* p_2^0)_0 \right\|,$$

which we know is a sphere. Note that N is homeomorphic to the moduli space of vectors $u_1, u_2, v_k, w \in \mathbb{R}^3$, $k \in S^c$, such that

$$\begin{aligned} u_1 &= -u_2 = q_1^0 p_1^0 + (p_1^0)^* (q_1^0)^*, \\ v_k &= (q_k^0 (q_k^0)^*)_0, \quad \forall k = |S| + 1, \dots, n-3, \\ w &= \sum_{i \in S} (q_i^0 (q_i^0)^*)_0 - ((p_1^0)^* p_1^0)_0 - ((p_2^0)^* p_2^0)_0. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, N equipped with the bending action along the first diagonal is a toric manifold with moment polytope given by the interval

$$\Delta = [\max\{|l - \alpha_{n-2}|, |\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n|\}, \min\{l + \alpha_{n-2}, \alpha_{n-1} + \alpha_n\}],$$

(cf. [19, 24] for details) and so we can use the following well-known fact about toric manifolds.

Consider a family of symplectic forms Ω_t on a toric manifold and the corresponding family of moment polytopes Δ_t with m facets given, as usual, by

$$F_{t,k} := \{x \in \mathfrak{t}^* \mid \langle x, \nu_k \rangle = \lambda_k(t)\} \quad \text{for } k = 1, \dots, m,$$

with ν_k the inward unit normal vector to the facet $F_{t,k}$ and $\lambda_k(t) \in \mathbb{R}$. Suppose that the polytopes Δ_t stay combinatorially the same as t changes but the value of $\lambda_i(t)$ for some $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ depends linearly on t and, as t increases, the facet $F_{t,i}$ moves outwards while the others stay fixed. Then, $\frac{d\Omega_t}{dt}$ is the Poincaré dual of the homology class $[\mu^{-1}(F_{t,i})]$ where the orientation is given by requiring that

$$\int_{\mu^{-1}(F_{t,i})} \Omega_t^{\frac{1}{2}(\dim \mu^{-1}(F_{t,i}))} > 0$$

(cf. Section 2.2 of [14] for details).

Applying this result to the submanifold N we see that, as α_n changes, the cohomology of the symplectic form on N

$$[(i_S \circ i_N)^* \omega_{\mathbb{R}}]$$

changes by the Poincaré dual of the homology class

$$\begin{aligned} & [\mu^{-1}(\alpha_{n-1} + \alpha_n) \cap U_S(\alpha)] + \operatorname{sgn}(\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n) [\mu^{-1}(|\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n|) \cap U_S(\alpha)] \\ &= [D_{n-1,n}^+(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha) \cap N] + \operatorname{sgn}(\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n) [D_{n-1,n}^-(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha) \cap N]. \end{aligned}$$

The result then follows from the fact that

$$(i_S^* c_n)|_N = i_N^* i_S^* c_n = (i_S \circ i_N)^* \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha_n} [\omega_{\mathbb{R}}] = \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha_n} [(i_S \circ i_N)^* \omega_{\mathbb{R}}].$$

□

5.4. Recursion formula. To prove our recursion formula we have to first study the behavior of the classes c_j when restricted to

$$[D_{n-1,n}^{\pm} \cap U_S(\alpha)].$$

Proposition 5.13. *Suppose $\alpha_n \neq \alpha_{n-1}$ and let c_n^+ and c_n^- be the cohomology classes $c_1(\tilde{V}_n(\alpha^+))$ and $c_1(\tilde{V}_n(\alpha^-))$, where*

$$\alpha^+ := (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-2}, \alpha_{n-1} + \alpha_n) \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha^- := (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-2}, |\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n|).$$

Then, considering the inclusion maps $i_{\pm} : D_{n-1,n}^{\pm}(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha) \hookrightarrow U_S(\alpha)$ and the diffeomorphisms $s_{\pm} : D_{n-1,n}^{\pm}(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha) \rightarrow U_S(\alpha^{\pm})$ from Proposition 5.9, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (i_{\pm} \circ s_{\pm}^{-1})^* (i_S^* c_i) &= (i_S^{\pm})^* c_i^{\pm} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq n-2; \\ (i_+ \circ s_+^{-1})^* (i_S^* c_{n-1}) &= (i_S^+)^* c_{n-1}^+; \\ (i_- \circ s_-^{-1})^* (i_S^* c_{n-1}) &= \operatorname{sgn}(\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n) (i_S^-)^* c_{n-1}^-; \\ (i_+ \circ s_+^{-1})^* (i_S^* c_n) &= (i_S^+)^* c_{n-1}^+; \\ (i_- \circ s_-^{-1})^* (i_S^* c_n) &= -\operatorname{sgn}(\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n) (i_S^-)^* c_{n-1}^-. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Recall the identification of $U_S(\alpha)$ with the moduli space \mathcal{Z} of $(n+1)$ -tuples of vectors

$$\{u_l, v_k, w \in \mathbb{R}^3, l \in S, k \in S^c\}$$

taken up to rotation, satisfying 1) – 5) in Theorem 2.3. Recall also that $D_{n-1,n}^{\pm}(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)$ can be identified via this homeomorphism to the subspace \mathcal{D}^{\pm} of \mathcal{Z} where $v_{n-1} = \lambda v_n$ with $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{\pm}$, and that this

space is, in turn, clearly homeomorphic to $U_S(\alpha^\pm)$. We then have homeomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_\alpha^\pm &: \mathcal{D}^\pm \longrightarrow D_{n-1,n}^\pm(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha) \\ \phi_{\alpha^\pm} &: \mathcal{D}^\pm \longrightarrow U_S(\alpha^\pm)\end{aligned}$$

and the corresponding pull-back bundles

$$\begin{aligned}(\phi_\alpha^\pm)^*(\tilde{V}_j(\alpha)) &\longrightarrow \mathcal{D}^\pm \\ (\phi_{\alpha^\pm})^*(\tilde{V}_j(\alpha^\pm)) &\longrightarrow \mathcal{D}^\pm\end{aligned}$$

are topological circle bundles over \mathcal{D}^\pm obtained by rotation of the pairs of polygons formed by the vectors u_l, v_k, w around the axis defined by the vector v_j .

(5.14)

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \tilde{V}_j(\alpha^\pm)|_{U_S(\alpha^\pm)} \leftarrow (\phi_{\alpha^\pm})^*(\tilde{V}_j(\alpha^\pm)|_{U_S(\alpha^\pm)}) & & (\phi_\alpha^\pm)^*(\tilde{V}_j(\alpha)|_{D_{n-1,n}^\pm(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)}) \rightarrow \tilde{V}_j(\alpha)|_{D_{n-1,n}^\pm(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)} & & \\ \downarrow & \searrow & \swarrow & & \downarrow \\ U_S(\alpha^\pm) & \xleftarrow{\phi_{\alpha^\pm}} & \mathcal{D}^\pm & \xrightarrow{\phi_\alpha^\pm} & D_{n-1,n}^\pm(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha) \\ & & \text{---} s_\pm = \phi_{\alpha^\pm} \circ (\phi_\alpha^\pm)^{-1} \text{---} & & \end{array}$$

We would like to compare the classes $(i_\pm \circ s_\pm^{-1})^*(i_S^* c_j)$ and $(i_S^\pm)^* c_j^\pm$. For that consider the pull back of both classes to $H^2(\mathcal{D}^\pm)$ via ϕ_{α^\pm} . In particular, one obtains

$$\phi_{\alpha^\pm}^*((i_\pm \circ s_\pm^{-1})^* i_S^* c_j) = \phi_{\alpha^\pm}^*(s_\pm^{-1})^* i_\pm^* (i_S^* c_j) = (\phi_\alpha^\pm)^* i_\pm^* (i_S^* c_j),$$

which is the first Chern class of the pull-back bundle $(\phi_\alpha^\pm)^* \tilde{V}_j(\alpha) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}^\pm$, and

$$\phi_{\alpha^\pm}^*((i_S^\pm)^* c_j^\pm),$$

which is the first Chern class of the pull-back bundle $\phi_{\alpha^\pm}^* \tilde{V}_j(\alpha^\pm) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}^\pm$. These two bundles rotate the pairs of polygons around the axis defined by the edge $v_j(\alpha)$ and $v_j(\alpha^\pm)$ respectively, where $v_j(\alpha)$ is the vector v_j in $(\phi_\alpha^\pm)^* \tilde{V}_j(\alpha)$ and $v_j(\alpha^\pm)$ is the vector v_j in $\phi_{\alpha^\pm}^* \tilde{V}_j(\alpha^\pm)$.

Since, if $j \neq n-1, n$, one has $v_j(\alpha) = v_j(\alpha^\pm)$, one obtains

$$(i_\pm \circ s_\pm^{-1})^*(i_S^* c_i) = (i_S^\pm)^* c_i^\pm \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq n-2.$$

As $v_{n-1}(\alpha^+) = v_{n-1}(\alpha) + v_n(\alpha)$, the vectors $v_{n-1}(\alpha^+)$, $v_{n-1}(\alpha)$ and $v_n(\alpha)$ determine the same circle action and so

$$(i_+ \circ s_+^{-1})^* i_S^* c_{n-1} = (i_S^+)^* c_{n-1}^+ \quad \text{and} \quad (i_+ \circ s_+^{-1})^* i_S^* c_n = (i_S^+)^* c_{n-1}^+.$$

Similarly, since $v_{n-1}(\alpha^-) = \text{sgn}(\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n)(v_{n-1}(\alpha) - v_n(\alpha))$, the vectors $v_{n-1}(\alpha^-)$, $\text{sgn}(\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n)v_{n-1}(\alpha)$ and $-\text{sgn}(\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n)v_n(\alpha)$ determine the same circle action and so

$$\begin{aligned} (i_- \circ s_-^{-1})^* i_S^* c_{n-1} &= \text{sgn}(\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n) (i_S^-)^* c_{n-1}^- \\ (i_- \circ s_-^{-1})^* i_S^* c_n &= -\text{sgn}(\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n) (i_S^-)^* c_{n-1}^-. \end{aligned}$$

□

Using Propositions 5.12 and 5.13 one obtains the following recursion formula.

Theorem 5.1. *Suppose $\alpha_{n-1} \neq \alpha_n$ and let*

$$\alpha^+ := (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-2}, \alpha_{n-1} + \alpha_n) \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha^- := (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-2}, |\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n|).$$

Then, for $k_1, \dots, k_n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ such that $k_1 + \dots + k_n = n - 3$ and $k_n \geq 1$,

(5.15)

$$\int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (c_1^{k_1} \dots c_n^{k_n}) = \int_{U_S(\alpha^+)} (i_S^+)^* ((c_1^+)^{k_1} \dots (c_{n-2}^+)^{k_{n-2}} (c_{n-1}^+)^{k_{n-1} + k_n - 1}) +$$

$$(-1)^{k_n - 1} (\text{sgn}(\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n))^{k_{n-1} + k_n} \int_{U_S(\alpha^-)} (i_S^-)^* ((c_1^-)^{k_1} \dots (c_{n-2}^-)^{k_{n-2}} (c_{n-1}^-)^{k_{n-1} + k_n - 1}).$$

Proof. By Proposition 5.12 the Poincaré dual of $i_S^* c_n$ is

$$(i_S^+)_* [D_{n-1,n}^+(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)] + \text{sgn}(\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n) (i_S^-)_* [D_{n-1,n}^-(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)].$$

This means that the formula

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (a c_n) &= \int_{U_S(\alpha^+)} (i_+ \circ s_+^{-1})^* (i_S^* a) + \\ &+ \text{sgn}(\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n) \int_{U_S(\alpha^-)} (i_- \circ s_-^{-1})^* (i_S^* a) \end{aligned}$$

holds true for all $a \in H^{n-4}(U_S(\alpha))$. The result then follows from Proposition 5.13. □

5.5. Explicit formulas. Using Theorem 5.1 one can obtain explicit expressions for the computation of intersection numbers. For that we first note the following facts concerning the Chern classes c_j .

Claim 1. If $1 \in S$ then $i_S^* c_1 = i_S^* c_j$ for every $j \in S$.

Proof. By Proposition 5.12 the class $i_S^*(c_1 - c_j)$ is represented by

$$2 \operatorname{sgn}(\alpha_j - \alpha_1) [D_{1,j}^-(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)].$$

However, in $D_{1,j}^-(\alpha)$, the vectors $(q_1 q_1^* - p_1^* p_1)_0$ and $(q_j q_j^* - p_j^* p_j)_0$ in \mathbb{R}^3 point in opposite directions and that is impossible in $U_S(\alpha)$ since, by hypothesis, both j and 1 are in S . Indeed, the vectors q_i for $i \in S$ are all proportional, implying that the vectors $(q_i q_i^*)_0$ are positive scalar multiples of each other and, moreover, the moment map condition (2.4) implies that $(p_1^* p_1)_0$ is a non-positive scalar multiple of $(q_i q_i^*)_0$. Hence, for all $i \in S$, the vectors $(q_i q_i^* - p_1^* p_1)_0$ all point in the same direction and so $i_S^*(c_1 - c_j) = 0$. \square

Claim 2. If $1 \in S$ then $i_S^* c_j^2 = i_S^* c_1^2$ for all $j \in S^c$.

Proof. Since $i_S^*(c_j^2 - c_1^2) = i_S^*((c_j - c_1)(c_j + c_1))$ and $i_S^*(c_j - c_1)$ is represented by

$$2 \operatorname{sgn}(\alpha_1 - \alpha_j) [D_{1,j}^-(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)],$$

while $i_S^*(c_j + c_1)$ is represented by

$$2[D_{1,j}^+(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)],$$

the result follows. Here note that in $D_{1,j}^+$ the vectors $(q_1 q_1^*)_0$ and $(q_j q_j^*)_0$ (and consequently $(q_1 q_1^* - p_1^* p_1)_0$ and $(q_j q_j^* - p_j^* p_j)_0$) point in the same direction while in $D_{1,j}^-$ they point in opposite directions. \square

Claim 3. If $1 \in S$ and $|S| = n - 1$ then $i_S^* c_j = -i_S^* c_1$ for the unique $j \notin S$.

Proof. Note that

$$i_S^*(c_j + c_1) = 2PD([D_{1,j}^+(\alpha) \cap U_S(\alpha)]) = 0,$$

since it is impossible for $(q_j q_j^*)_0$ to point in the same direction as $(q_1 q_1^*)_0$ (the corresponding spatial polygons in $U_S(\alpha)$ would not close). \square

Using the first two claims, and reordering α if necessary, one can reduce the computation of all intersection numbers to integrals of one of the two following types, where one assumes without loss of generality, that $S = \{1, \dots, |S|\}$:

- (I) $\int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^{n-3},$
- (II) $\int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (c_1^k c_{n-l} \cdots c_n), \quad \text{with } n-l > |S| \quad \text{and} \quad k = n-l-4.$

To obtain explicit formulas for these integrals one needs first to consider families of triangular sets as defined in [1].

Definition. Let $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m)$ be generic. A set $J \in I = \{3, \dots, m\}$ is called *triangular* if

$$\ell_J := \sum_{i \in J} \alpha_i - \sum_{i \in I \setminus J} \alpha_i > 0$$

and satisfies the following triangular inequalities

$$\alpha_1 \leq \alpha_2 + \ell_J, \quad \alpha_2 \leq \alpha_1 + \ell_J \quad \text{and} \quad \ell_J \leq \alpha_1 + \alpha_2.$$

Moreover, define the family of triangular sets in I as

$$\mathcal{T}(\alpha) = \{J \in I \mid J \text{ is triangular}\}.$$

For integrals of type (I) one has the following result.

Theorem 5.2. *Let S be the short set $\{1, \dots, |S|\}$.*

If $|S| \leq n - 3$ then

$$(5.16) \quad \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^{n-3} = \sum_{J \in \mathcal{T}(\tilde{\alpha})} (-1)^{(n-|S|)|J \cap \{n-|S|+1\}| + |J| + |S|},$$

where $\tilde{\alpha} := (\alpha_n, \alpha_{|S|+1}, \dots, \alpha_{n-1}, \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i)$ and $\mathcal{T}(\tilde{\alpha})$ is the corresponding family of triangular sets.

If $|S| = n - 2$ then

$$(5.17) \quad \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^{n-3} = \begin{cases} (-1)^{n-1}, & \text{if } S \text{ is a maximal short set for } \alpha \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

If $|S| = n - 1$ then

$$(5.18) \quad \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^{n-3} = (-1)^{n-1}.$$

Proof. • If $|S| = n - 1$ and assuming that $S = \{1, \dots, n - 1\}$ then, by Claim 1 and Proposition 5.8,

$$i_S^* c_1^{n-3} = i_S^* c_1 \cdots c_{n-3} = (-1)^{n-3} PD([U_S(\alpha) \cap W_1 \cap \cdots \cap W_{n-3}]),$$

where $W_i = \{[p, q] \in X(\alpha) \mid p_i = 0\}$. Moreover,

$$U_S(\alpha) \cap W_1 \cap \cdots \cap W_{n-3}$$

can be identified with the moduli space of vectors $u, v, w \in \mathbb{R}^3$ taken up to rotation, satisfying

- $w = -v$,
- $u \cdot w = 0$,
- $\|w\| = \|v\| = \alpha_n$,
- $\sqrt{\alpha_{n-2}^2 + \|u\|^2} + \sqrt{\alpha_{n-1}^2 + \|u\|^2} = \alpha_n - \alpha_1 - \cdots - \alpha_{n-3}$,

(cf. Figure 9-(I)). Since, by hypothesis, S is short we know that $\alpha_n >$

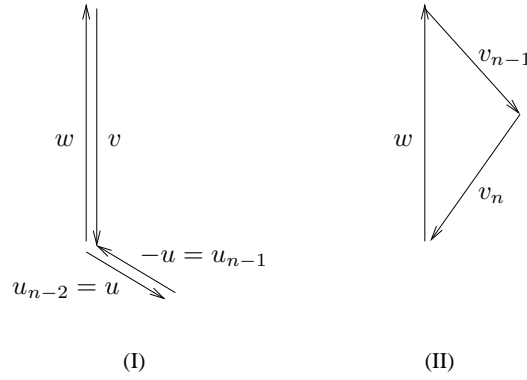


FIGURE 9. (I) The element of $U_S(\alpha) \cap W_1 \cap \cdots \cap W_{n-3}$ represented as a pair of degenerate polygons when $|S| = n - 1$. (II) The element of $U_S(\alpha) \cap W_1 \cap \cdots \cap W_{n-3}$ represented by a spatial polygon, when $|S| = n - 2$.

$\sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i$ and so this moduli space is a point and

$$\int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^{n-3} = (-1)^{n-1}.$$

• If $|S| = n - 2$, assuming $S = \{1, \dots, n - 2\}$ and using Claim 1 and Proposition 5.8, one has

$$i_S^* c_1^{n-3} = i_S^* c_1 \cdots c_{n-3} = (-1)^{n-3} PD([U_S(\alpha) \cap W_1 \cap \cdots \cap W_{n-3}]).$$

In this situation all the vectors u_i as in Theorem 2.3 are equal to zero since $\sum_{i \in S} u_i = 0$. Hence,

$$U_S(\alpha) \cap W_1 \cap \cdots \cap W_{n-3}$$

is now the polygon space

$$M_S(\alpha) := M \left(\sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i, \alpha_{n-1}, \alpha_n \right)$$

which is a point if simultaneously $\alpha_{n-1} < \sum_{i \neq n-1} \alpha_i$ and $\alpha_n < \sum_{i \neq n} \alpha_i$, and empty otherwise (cf. Figure 9-(II)). The result then follows. (Note that the fact that S is short already implies that $\alpha_{n-1} + \alpha_n < \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i$.)

• If $|S| \leq n - 3$ then, assuming $S = \{1, \dots, |S|\}$ and using Claim 1 and Proposition 5.8, one has

$$i_S^* c_1^{|S|-1} = (-1)^{|S|-1} PD([U_S(\alpha) \cap W_1 \cap \dots \cap W_{|S|-1}]).$$

Again, in the identification of

$$U_S(\alpha) \cap W_1 \cap \dots \cap W_{|S|-1}$$

as a moduli space of pairs of polygons in \mathbb{R}^3 , all the vectors u_i are zero, implying that

$$U_S(\alpha) \cap W_1 \cap \dots \cap W_{|S|-1} = M_S(\alpha) = M\left(\sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i, \alpha_{|S|+1}, \dots, \alpha_n\right).$$

Hence,

$$\int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^{n-3} = (-1)^{|S|-1} \int_{M_S(\alpha)} \tilde{c}_1^{n-|S|-2},$$

where $\tilde{c}_1 := c_1(V_1(\alpha_S))$ for V_1 defined in (5.2), with

$$\alpha_S = \left(\sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i, \alpha_{|S|+1}, \dots, \alpha_n\right).$$

Indeed, the circle action on the principal bundle

$$\tilde{V}_1|_{U_S(\alpha) \cap W_1 \cap \dots \cap W_{|S|-1}} \longrightarrow U_S(\alpha) \cap W_1 \cap \dots \cap W_{|S|-1}$$

agrees with the one on $V_1|_{M_S(\alpha)}$ and so these two bundles are isomorphic. Reordering the elements in α_S one has

$$\int_{M_S(\alpha)} \tilde{c}_1^{n-|S|-2} = \int_{M(\tilde{\alpha})} c_{n-|S|+1}^{n-|S|-2},$$

where $\tilde{\alpha} := (\alpha_n, \alpha_{|S|+1}, \dots, \alpha_{n-1}, \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i)$ and $\tilde{c}_{n-|S|+1}$ is the first Chern class of the circle bundle

$$V_{n-|S|+1} \longrightarrow M(\tilde{\alpha}).$$

This new integral can then be computed using Theorem 2 of [1] for polygon spaces, yielding

$$\int_{M_S(\alpha)} \tilde{c}_1^{n-|S|-2} = \sum_{J \in \mathcal{T}(\tilde{\alpha})} (-1)^{n-|S|+1+|J|+|(I \setminus J) \cap \{n-|S|+1\}|} \binom{n-|S|}{n-|S|},$$

where $I = \{3, \dots, n - |S| + 1\}$ and the result follows. \square

For integrals of type (II) we have:

Theorem 5.3. *Let S be the short set $\{1, \dots, |S|\}$.*

If $|S| < n - l - 2$ then

$$(5.19) \quad \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (c_1^k c_{n-l} \cdots c_n) = \sum_{J \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l}(\alpha)} \sum_{J' \in \mathcal{T}_{n,l}(\alpha, J)} (-1)^{|J \cap \{n-l-1\}| + |J' \cap \{n-l-|S|\}|} \binom{n-l-|S|+1}{|J'|+|S|+1},$$

where $\mathcal{A}_{n,l}(\alpha)$ is the family of sets $J \subset I_{n,l} := \{n-l-1, \dots, n\}$ for which

$$\ell_J(\alpha) := \sum_{i \in J} \alpha_i - \sum_{i \in I_{n,l} \setminus J} \alpha_i > 0$$

and

$$\sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i < \ell_J(\alpha) + \alpha_{|S|+1} + \cdots + \alpha_{n-l-2},$$

and where $\mathcal{T}_{n,l}(\alpha, J) := \mathcal{T}(\tilde{\alpha}_{n,l,J})$ is the family of triangular sets for

$$\tilde{\alpha}_{n,l,J} := \left(\ell_J(\alpha), \alpha_{|S|+1}, \dots, \alpha_{n-l-2}, \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i \right).$$

If $|S| = n - l - 2$ then

$$(5.20) \quad \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (c_1^k c_{n-l} \cdots c_n) = \sum_{J \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l}(\alpha)} (-1)^{|J \cap \{n-l-1\}| + |S|+1}.$$

If $|S| = n - l - 1$ then

$$(5.21) \quad \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (c_1^k c_{n-l} \cdots c_n) = (-1)^{n-l} |\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n,l}(\alpha)|,$$

where

$$\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n,l}(\alpha) = \left\{ J \subset \{n-l, \dots, n\} \mid \ell_J(\alpha) > \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i \right\}.$$

Proof. We will prove this formula by induction on n starting with $n = k+4$ (implying $l = 0$). Here we have to consider two cases ($|S| = n-1$ and $|S| < n-1$).

First, if $|S| = n-1 = k+3$ we have by Claim 3 and Theorem 5.2 (5.18), that

$$\int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^{n-4} c_n = - \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^{n-3} = (-1)^n,$$

which is equal to the right hand side of (5.21) since, in this case,

$$\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n,0}(\alpha) = \{\{n\}\}.$$

If $|S| < n - 1 = k + 3$ then by the recursion formula (5.15) we have

$$(5.22) \quad \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^{n-4} c_n = \int_{U_S(\alpha^+)} (i_S^+)^* c_1^{n-4} + \operatorname{sgn}(\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n) \int_{U_S(\alpha^-)} (i_S^-)^* c_1^{n-4}.$$

with $\alpha^\pm = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-2}, |\alpha_{n-1} \pm \alpha_n|)$.

• If, in particular, $|S| = n - 2 = k + 2$ then by Theorem 5.2-(5.18),

$$(5.23) \quad \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^{n-4} c_n = \begin{cases} (-1)^n (1 + \operatorname{sgn}(\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n)), & \text{if } \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i < |\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n| \\ (-1)^n, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Note that S is always short for α^+ since, by assumption S is short for α and that S is short for α^- if and only if $\sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i < |\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n|$. On the other hand, in this case we have

$$\mathcal{A}_{n,0}(\alpha) = \begin{cases} \{\{n-1\}, \{n-1, n\}\} \text{ or } \{\{n\}, \{n-1, n\}\}, & \text{if } S \text{ is } \alpha^- \text{-short} \\ \{\{n-1, n\}\}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Then the right-hand-side of (5.20) agrees with the result obtained in (5.23).

• If $|S| = n - 3 = k + 1$ then again by Theorem 5.2-(5.17),

$$\int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^{n-4} c_n$$

is equal to

(i) $(-1)^n (1 + \operatorname{sgn}(\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n))$, if S is α^\pm -maximal short, in which case

$$\mathcal{A}_{n,0}(\alpha) = \{\{m-1\}, \{m-1, m\}\} \quad \text{or} \quad \{\{m\}, \{m-1, m\}\}$$

and

$$\mathcal{T}_{n,0}(\alpha, \{n-1, n\}) = \mathcal{T}_{n,0}(\alpha, \{n-1\}) = \mathcal{T}_{n,0}(\alpha, \{n\}) = \{\{3\}\}.$$

(ii) $(-1)^n$, if S is α^+ -maximal short and either not α^- -maximal short or not α^- -short at all, in which cases

$$\mathcal{A}_{n,0}(\alpha) = \{\{n-1, n\}\}, \quad \{\{n-1\}, \{n-1, n\}\} \text{ or } \{\{n\}, \{n-1, n\}\}$$

and

$$\mathcal{T}_{n,0}(\alpha, \{n-1, n\}) = \{\{3\}\}, \quad \mathcal{T}_{n,0}(\alpha, \{n-1\}) = \mathcal{T}_{n,0}(\alpha, \{n\}) = \emptyset.$$

- (iii) $(-1)^n \operatorname{sgn}(\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n)$, if S is not α^+ -maximal short but α^- -maximal short, in which case

$$\mathcal{A}_{n,0}(\alpha) = \{\{n-1\}, \{n-1, n\}\} \text{ or } \{\{n\}, \{n-1, n\}\},$$

and

$$\mathcal{T}_{n,0}(\alpha, \{n-1, n\}) = \emptyset, \quad \mathcal{T}_{n,0}(\alpha, \{n-1\}) = \mathcal{T}_{n,0}(\alpha, \{n\}) = \{\{3\}\}.$$

- (iv) 0, if S is not α^+ -maximal short and either not α^- -maximal short or not α^- -short at all, in which cases

$$\mathcal{A}_{n,0}(\alpha) = \{\{n-1, n\}\}, \quad \{\{n-1\}, \{n-1, n\}\} \text{ or } \{\{n\}, \{n-1, n\}\}$$

and

$$\mathcal{T}_{n,0}(\alpha, \{n-1, n\}) = \mathcal{T}_{n,0}(\alpha, \{n-1\}) = \mathcal{T}_{n,0}(\alpha, \{n\}) = \emptyset.$$

It is now easy to verify that the above results (i)-(iv) agree in all cases with the right hand side of (5.19).

• Finally, if $|S| < n-3 = k+1$ then by (5.22) and Theorem 5.2-(5.16), considering $\mathcal{T}(\tilde{\alpha}^\pm)$ the family of triangular sets $J \subset \{3, \dots, n-|S|\}$ for

$$\tilde{\alpha}^\pm := \left(|\alpha_{n-1} \pm \alpha_n|, \alpha_{|S|+1}, \dots, \alpha_{n-2}, \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i \right),$$

we have

$$(5.24) \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^{n-4} c_n = \sum_{J' \in \mathcal{T}(\tilde{\alpha}^+)} (-1)^{(n-1-|S|)|J' \cap \{n-|S|\}|+|J'|+|S|} + \\ + \operatorname{sgn}(\alpha_{n-1} - \alpha_n) \sum_{J' \in \mathcal{T}(\tilde{\alpha}^-)} (-1)^{(n-1-|S|)|J' \cap \{n-|S|\}|+|J'|+|S|},$$

if S is short for $\tilde{\alpha}^-$, and

$$(5.25) \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^{n-4} c_n = \sum_{J' \in \mathcal{T}(\tilde{\alpha}^+)} (-1)^{(n-1-|S|)|J' \cap \{n-|S|\}|+|J'|+|S|},$$

otherwise. In the first situation, we have

$$\mathcal{A}_{n,0}(\alpha) = \{\{n-1\}, \{n-1, n\}\} \quad \text{or} \quad \{\{n\}, \{n-1, n\}\}$$

and

$$\mathcal{T}_{n,0}(\alpha, \{n-1, n\}) = \mathcal{T}(\tilde{\alpha}^+), \quad \mathcal{T}_{n,0}(\alpha, \{n-1\}) = \mathcal{T}_{n,0}(\alpha, \{n\}) = \mathcal{T}(\tilde{\alpha}^-),$$

while, in the second one, we have

$$\mathcal{A}_{n,0}(\alpha) = \{\{n-1, n\}\} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{T}_{n,0}(\alpha, \{n-1, n\}) = \mathcal{T}(\tilde{\alpha}^+),$$

and so (5.24) and (5.25) agree with the right hand side of (5.19).

We will now assume that (5.19), (5.20) and (5.21) hold for n and show that they are still true for $n + 1$. Using the recursion formula (5.15) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^k c_{n+1-l} \cdots c_{n+1} &= \int_{U_S(\alpha^+)} (i_S^+)^* (c_1^+)^k c_{n+1-l}^+ \cdots c_n^+ + \\ &+ \int_{U_S(\alpha^-)} (i_S^-)^* (c_1^-)^k c_{n+1-l}^- \cdots c_n^-. \end{aligned}$$

- If $|S| < n - l - 2$ then, if $\alpha_n - \alpha_{n+1} > 0$,

(5.26)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_{n+1,l}(\alpha) &= \left\{ J \subset I_{n+1,l} := \{n-l, \dots, n+1\} \mid \ell_J(\alpha) > 0 \text{ and} \right. \\ &\quad \left. \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i < \ell_J(\alpha) + \alpha_{|S|+1} + \cdots + \alpha_{n-l-1} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \tilde{J} \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+) \mid n \notin \tilde{J} \right\} \cup \left\{ \tilde{J} \cup \{n+1\} \mid \tilde{J} \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+) \text{ and } n \in \tilde{J} \right\} \cup \\ &\quad \cup \left\{ \tilde{J} \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^-) \mid n \in \tilde{J} \right\} \cup \left\{ \tilde{J} \cup \{n+1\} \mid \tilde{J} \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^-) \text{ and } n \notin \tilde{J} \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

while, if $\alpha_n - \alpha_{n+1} < 0$,

(5.27)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_{n+1,l}(\alpha) &= \left\{ \tilde{J} \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+) \mid n \notin \tilde{J} \right\} \cup \\ &\quad \cup \left\{ \tilde{J} \cup \{n+1\} \mid \tilde{J} \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+) \text{ and } n \in \tilde{J} \right\} \cup \\ &\quad \cup \left\{ (\tilde{J} \setminus \{n\}) \cup \{n+1\} \mid \tilde{J} \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^-) \text{ and } n \in \tilde{J} \right\} \cup \\ &\quad \cup \left\{ \tilde{J} \cup \{n\} \mid \tilde{J} \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^-) \text{ and } n \notin \tilde{J} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, since $\mathcal{T}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^\pm, J) := \mathcal{T}(\tilde{\alpha}_{n,l-1,J}^\pm)$ is the family of triangular sets

$$J' \subset \{3, \dots, n - (l-1) - |S|\}$$

for $\tilde{\alpha}_{n,l-1,J}^\pm := (\ell_J(\alpha^\pm), \alpha_{|S|+1}, \dots, \alpha_{n-(l+1)}, \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i)$, and $\mathcal{T}_{n+1,l}(\alpha, J) := \mathcal{T}(\tilde{\alpha}_{n+1,l,J})$ is the family of triangular sets

$$J' \subset \{3, \dots, (n+1) - l - |S|\}$$

for $\tilde{\alpha}_{n+1,l,J} := (\ell_J(\alpha), \alpha_{|S|+1}, \dots, \alpha_{(n+1)-l}, \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i)$, we have that

$$\mathcal{T}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+, J) = \begin{cases} \mathcal{T}_{n+1,l}(\alpha, J \cup \{n+1\}), & \text{if } n \in J \\ \mathcal{T}_{n+1,l}(\alpha, J), & \text{if } n \notin J, \end{cases}$$

and, if $\alpha_n - \alpha_{n+1} > 0$,

$$\mathcal{T}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^-, J) = \begin{cases} \mathcal{T}_{n+1,l}(\alpha, J \cup \{n+1\}), & \text{if } n \notin J \\ \mathcal{T}_{n+1,l}(\alpha, J), & \text{if } n \in J, \end{cases}$$

while, if $\alpha_n - \alpha_{n+1} < 0$,

$$\mathcal{T}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^-, J) = \begin{cases} \mathcal{T}_{n+1,l}(\alpha, J \cup \{n\}), & \text{if } n \notin J \\ \mathcal{T}_{n+1,l}(\alpha, (J \setminus \{n\}) \cup \{n+1\}), & \text{if } n \in J. \end{cases}$$

Assuming that (5.19) holds for n we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{U_S(\alpha^+)} (i_S^+)^*(c_1^+)^k c_{n+1-l}^+ \cdots c_n^+ \\ &= \sum_{J \text{ in } \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+)} \sum_{J' \text{ in } \mathcal{T}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+, J)} (-1)^{|J \cap \{n-(l-1)-1\}| + |J' \cap \{n-(l-1)-|S|\}|} \binom{n-(l-1)+1-|S|}{|J'|+|S|+1} \\ &= \sum_{\substack{\tilde{J} \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+) \\ \text{s.t. } n \notin \tilde{J}}} \sum_{J' \text{ in } \mathcal{T}_{n+1,l}(\alpha^+, \tilde{J})} (-1)^{|\tilde{J} \cap \{(n+1)-l-1\}| + |J' \cap \{(n+1)-l-|S|\}|} \binom{(n+1)-l+1-|S|}{|J'|+|S|+1} + \\ &+ \sum_{\substack{\tilde{J} \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+) \\ \text{s.t. } n \in \tilde{J}}} \sum_{J' \text{ in } \mathcal{T}_{n+1,l}(\alpha^+, \tilde{J} \cup \{n+1\})} (-1)^{(|\tilde{J} \cup \{n+1\}| \cap \{(n+1)-l-1\}) + |J' \cap \{(n+1)-l-|S|\}|} \binom{(n+1)-l+1-|S|}{|J'|+|S|+1}. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, if $\alpha_n - \alpha_{n+1} > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{U_S(\alpha^-)} (i_S^-)^*(c_1^-)^k c_{n+1-l}^- \cdots c_n^- \\ &= \sum_{J \text{ in } \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^-)} \sum_{J' \text{ in } \mathcal{T}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^-, J)} (-1)^{|J \cap \{n-(l-1)-1\}| + |J' \cap \{n-(l-1)-|S|\}|} \binom{n-(l-1)+1-|S|}{|J'|+|S|+1} \\ &= \sum_{\substack{\tilde{J} \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^-) \\ \text{s.t. } n \in \tilde{J}}} \sum_{J' \text{ in } \mathcal{T}_{n+1,l}(\alpha^+, \tilde{J})} (-1)^{|\tilde{J} \cap \{(n+1)-l-1\}| + |J' \cap \{(n+1)-l-|S|\}|} \binom{(n+1)-l+1-|S|}{|J'|+|S|+1} + \\ &+ \sum_{\substack{\tilde{J} \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+) \\ \text{s.t. } n \notin \tilde{J}}} \sum_{J' \text{ in } \mathcal{T}_{n+1,l}(\alpha^+, \tilde{J} \cup \{n+1\})} (-1)^{(|\tilde{J} \cup \{n+1\}| \cap \{(n+1)-l-1\}) + |J' \cap \{(n+1)-l-|S|\}|} \binom{(n+1)-l+1-|S|}{|J'|+|S|+1} \end{aligned}$$

and similarly for $\alpha_n - \alpha_{n+1} < 0$. The result now follows from (5.26) and (5.27).

• If $|S| = n - l - 2$ the family of sets $\mathcal{A}_{n+1,l}(\alpha)$ is the same as in (5.26) and (5.27). Moreover, assuming (5.20) holds for n , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{U_S(\alpha^+)} (i_S^+)^*(c_1^+)^k c_{n+1-l}^+ \cdots c_n^+ &= \sum_{J \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+)} (-1)^{|J \cap \{n-(l-1)-1\}| + |S|+1} \\ &= \sum_{\substack{\tilde{J} \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+) \\ \text{s.t. } n \notin \tilde{J}}} (-1)^{|\tilde{J} \cap \{(n+1)-l-1\}| + |S|+1} + \sum_{\substack{\tilde{J} \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+) \\ \text{s.t. } n \in \tilde{J}}} (-1)^{|(\tilde{J} \cup \{n+1\}) \cap \{(n+1)-l-1\}| + |S|+1}. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, if $\alpha_n - \alpha_{n+1} > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{U_S(\alpha^-)} (i_S^-)^*(c_1^-)^k c_{n+1-l}^- \cdots c_n^- &= \sum_{J \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^-)} (-1)^{|J \cap \{n-(l-1)-1\}| + |S|+1} \\ &= \sum_{\substack{\tilde{J} \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^-) \\ \text{s.t. } n \in \tilde{J}}} (-1)^{|\tilde{J} \cap \{(n+1)-l-1\}| + |S|+1} + \sum_{\substack{\tilde{J} \in \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+) \\ \text{s.t. } n \notin \tilde{J}}} (-1)^{|(\tilde{J} \cup \{n+1\}) \cap \{(n+1)-l-1\}| + |S|+1} \end{aligned}$$

and similarly for $\alpha_n - \alpha_{n+1} < 0$. The result then follows from (5.26) and (5.27).

• If $|S| = n - l - 1$ then, writing

$$\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^\pm) = \left\{ J \subset I_{n,l-1} := \{n - (l-1), \dots, n\} \mid \ell_J(\alpha^\pm) > \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i \right\},$$

we have for $\alpha_n - \alpha_{n+1} > 0$ that

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n+1,l}(\alpha) &= \left\{ \tilde{J} \in \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+) \mid n \notin \tilde{J} \right\} \cup \\ &\quad \cup \left\{ \tilde{J} \cup \{n+1\} \mid \tilde{J} \in \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+) \text{ and } n \in \tilde{J} \right\} \cup \\ &\quad \cup \left\{ \tilde{J} \in \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^-) \mid n \in \tilde{J} \right\} \cup \\ &\quad \cup \left\{ \tilde{J} \cup \{n+1\} \mid \tilde{J} \in \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^-) \text{ and } n \notin \tilde{J} \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

while, for $\alpha_n - \alpha_{n+1} < 0$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n+1,l}(\alpha) = & \left\{ \tilde{J} \in \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+) \mid n \notin \tilde{J} \right\} \cup \\ & \cup \left\{ \tilde{J} \cup \{n+1\} \mid \tilde{J} \in \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+) \text{ and } n \in \tilde{J} \right\} \cup \\ & \cup \left\{ \tilde{J} \cup \{n\} \mid \tilde{J} \in \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^-) \text{ and } n \notin \tilde{J} \right\} \cup \\ & \cup \left\{ (\tilde{J} \setminus \{n\}) \cup \{n+1\} \mid \tilde{J} \in \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^-) \text{ and } n \in \tilde{J} \right\}.\end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}& \int_{U_S(\alpha^+)} (i_S^+)^*(c_1^+)^k c_{n+1-l}^+ \cdots c_n^+ + \int_{U_S(\alpha^-)} (i_S^-)^*(c_1^-)^k c_{n+1-l}^- \cdots c_n^- \\ & = (-1)^{n-(l-1)} \left\{ |\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^+)| + |\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^-)| \right\} = (-1)^{(n+1)-l} |\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n+1,l}(\alpha)|\end{aligned}$$

and the result follows.

In the above proof one has to assume that each time that the recursion formula is used one has $\alpha_n \neq \alpha_{n+1}$. However, this result is still valid even if this is not the case, as long as α is generic. In fact, for a generic α with $\alpha_n = \alpha_{n+1}$ we may take a small value of $\varepsilon > 0$ for which $U_S(\alpha)$ is diffeomorphic to $U_S(\alpha_\varepsilon)$ with $\alpha_\varepsilon := (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-1}, \alpha_n + \varepsilon)$. For ε small enough, $\mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^\pm) = \mathcal{A}_{n,l-1}(\alpha_\varepsilon^\pm)$ and $\mathcal{T}_{n,l-1}(\alpha^\pm, J) = \mathcal{T}_{n,l-1}(\alpha_\varepsilon^\pm, J)$ (since α generic implies that α_ε , α_ε^+ and α_ε^- are also generic) and so the induction step still holds. \square

5.6. Examples.

Example 8. Let $\alpha = (1, 1, 3, 3, 3)$ and consider the space $X(\alpha)$ and the short set $S = \{1, 2\}$. The fixed point set of the core component $U_S(\alpha)$ consists of the minimum component $M_S(\alpha) \cong \mathbb{CP}^1$ and four isolated fixed points. From Claims 1 and 2 one has

$$\int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^2 = \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_2^2 = \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_3^2 = \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_4^2 = \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_5^2 = \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (c_1 c_2).$$

Using the fact that

$$i_S^* c_1 = -PD(U_S(\alpha) \cap W_1) = PD(M_S(\alpha)) = PD(M(2, 3, 3, 3))$$

with $W_1 =: \{[p, q] \in X(\alpha) \mid p_1 = 0\}$ (cf. Proposition 5.8) and the recursion formula for polygon spaces in [1], one can compute

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^2 &= - \int_{M_S(\alpha)} \tilde{c}_1 = - \int_{M(2,3,3,3)} \tilde{c}_1 = - \int_{M(3,3,3,2)} \tilde{c}_4 \\ &= - \int_{M(3,3,5)} 1 - \int_{M(3,3,1)} 1 = -2, \end{aligned}$$

where, as usual, given a polygon space $M(\lambda)$ one defines $\tilde{c}_j := c_1(V_j(\lambda))$. Note that the polygon spaces $M(3, 3, 5)$ and $M(3, 3, 1)$ consist of only one point as in Figure 9-(II).

If one uses Theorem 5.2 to compute these integrals one obtains

$$\int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^2 = \sum_{J \in \mathcal{T}(\tilde{\alpha})} (-1)^3 |J \cap \{4\}| + |J| + 2 = -2,$$

where $\tilde{\alpha} = (3, 3, 2)$, since

$$\mathcal{T}(\tilde{\alpha}) = \left\{ J \subset \{3, 4\} \mid \sum_{j \in J} \tilde{\alpha}_j - \sum_{j \in \{3, 4\} \setminus J} \tilde{\alpha}_j > 0 \right\} = \{\{3\}, \{3, 4\}\}.$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (c_1 c_5) &= \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (c_1 c_3) = \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (c_1 c_4) = \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (c_2 c_3) \\ &= \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (c_2 c_4) = \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (c_2 c_5). \end{aligned}$$

These integrals can be computed using the recursion formula (5.15) as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (c_1 c_5) &= \int_{U_S(1,1,3,3,3+\varepsilon)} i_S^* (c_1 c_5) = \int_{U_S(1,1,3,6+\varepsilon)} i_S^* c_1 - \int_{U_S(1,1,3,\varepsilon)} i_S^* c_1 \\ &= - \int_{M(2,3,6+\varepsilon)} 1 + \int_{M(2,3,\varepsilon)} 1 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

since $i_S^* c_1 = -PD(U_S(\alpha_\varepsilon^\pm) \cap W_1)$. Note that

$$M(2, 3, 6 + \varepsilon) = M(2, 3, \varepsilon) = \emptyset$$

as the polygons in these spaces would not close.

If one uses Theorem 5.3-(5.19) to compute these integrals one obtains

$$\int_{U_S(\alpha_\varepsilon)} i_S^* c_1 c_5 = \sum_{J \in \mathcal{A}_{5,0}(\alpha_\varepsilon)} \sum_{J' \in \mathcal{T}_{5,0}(\alpha_\varepsilon, J)} (-1)^{|J \cap \{4\}| + 4|J' \cap \{3\}| + |J'| + 3} = 0$$

since

$$\mathcal{A}_{5,0}(\alpha_\varepsilon) = \{J \subset \{4, 5\} \mid \ell_J(\alpha_\varepsilon) > 0 \text{ and } 2 < \ell_J(\alpha_\varepsilon) + 3\} = \{\{5\}, \{4, 5\}\},$$

$$\mathcal{T}_{5,0}(\alpha_\varepsilon, \{5\}) = \mathcal{T}_{5,0}(\varepsilon, 3, 2) = \emptyset$$

and

$$\mathcal{T}_{5,0}(\alpha_\varepsilon, \{4, 5\}) = \mathcal{T}_{5,0}(6 + \varepsilon, 3, 2) = \emptyset.$$

Finally,

$$\int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (c_4 c_5) = \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (c_3 c_5) = \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (c_3 c_4)$$

and, by the recursion formula (5.15), one has

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (c_4 c_5) &= \int_{U_S(1,1,3,6+\varepsilon)} c_4 + \int_{U_S(1,1,3,\varepsilon)} c_4 \\ &= \int_{U_S(1,1,9+\varepsilon)} 1 - \int_{U_S(1,1,3+\varepsilon)} 1 + \int_{U_S(1,1,3+\varepsilon)} 1 + \int_{U_S(1,1,3-\varepsilon)} 1 = 2. \end{aligned}$$

Note that the core components $U_S(1, 1, 9 + \varepsilon)$, $U_S(1, 1, 3 + \varepsilon)$ and $U_S(1, 1, 3 - \varepsilon)$ consist of a single point as $S = \{1, 2\}$ is short in all cases.

If one uses Theorem 5.3-(5.20) one obtains

$$\int_{U_S(\alpha_\varepsilon)} i_S^* c_4 c_5 = \sum_{J \in \mathcal{A}_{5,1}(\alpha_\varepsilon)} (-1)^{|J \cap \{3\}| + 1} = 2,$$

since

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_{5,1}(\alpha_\varepsilon) &= \{J \subset \{3, 4, 5\} \mid \ell_J(\alpha_\varepsilon) > 0 \text{ and } 2 < \ell_J(\alpha_\varepsilon)\} \\ &= \{\{3, 4\}, \{3, 5\}, \{4, 5\}, \{3, 4, 5\}\}. \end{aligned}$$

These computations agree with the results in Example 4.7 of [16]. In fact, U_S is homeomorphic to the blow-up of \mathbb{CP}^2 at 3 points and the intersection form on $H^2(U_S)$ with respect to the basis

$$\left\{ \frac{c_1 + c_3 + c_4 + c_5}{2}, -\frac{c_1 + c_3}{2}, -\frac{c_1 + c_4}{2}, -\frac{c_1 + c_5}{2} \right\}$$

can be obtained from our results and is represented by the diagonal matrix $\text{Diag}(1, -1, -1, -1)$. Indeed, for example,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \bullet \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* \left(\frac{c_1 + c_3 + c_4 + c_5}{2} \right)^2 = \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^2 + \frac{3}{2} \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_4 c_5 = -2 + 3 = 1, \\
& \bullet \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* \left(\frac{c_1 + c_3}{2} \right)^2 = \frac{1}{2} \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1 c_3 = -1 + 0 = -1, \\
& \bullet \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* \left(\frac{c_1 + c_3 + c_4 + c_5}{2} \right) \left(-\frac{c_1 + c_3}{2} \right) \\
& \quad = - \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* \left(\frac{c_1 + c_3}{2} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1 c_5 - \frac{1}{2} \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_3 c_5 = 1 - 0 - 1 = 0 \\
& \bullet \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* \left(\frac{c_1 + c_3}{2} \right) \left(\frac{c_1 + c_4}{2} \right) \\
& \quad = \frac{1}{4} \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1 c_4 + \frac{1}{4} \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_3 c_4 = -\frac{1}{2} + 0 + \frac{1}{2} = 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Example 9. Let us consider the same hyperpolygon space $X(\alpha)$ as in the preceding example and compute the intersection numbers of the core component $U_S(\alpha)$ with $S = \{1, 2, 3\}$. By Claims 1 and 2 it is enough to consider the following three integrals.

$$\int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^2, \quad \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1 c_5 \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_4 c_5.$$

The value of the first one is

$$\int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^2 = 1$$

since

$$i_S^* c_1^2 = i_S c_1 c_2 = PD(U_S(\alpha) \cap W_1 \cap W_2) = PD(M(5, 3, 3)) = PD(\{\text{pt}\}).$$

This agrees with the value given by Theorem 5.2-(5.17) since S is maximal short for α .

For the second one we get

$$\int_{U_S(\alpha_\varepsilon)} i_S^* c_1 c_5 = \int_{U_S(1,1,3,6+\varepsilon)} i_S^* c_1 - \int_{U_S(1,1,3,\varepsilon)} i_S^* c_1 = -1 - 0 = -1$$

since S is not short for $(1, 1, 3, \varepsilon)$ and, in $U_S(1, 1, 3, 6 + \varepsilon)$,

$$i_S^* c_1 = -PD(U_S(1, 1, 3, 6 + \varepsilon) \cap W_1) = -PD(\{\text{pt}\}).$$

On the other hand, by Theorem 5.3-(5.20) one has

$$\int_{U_S(\alpha_\varepsilon)} i_S^* c_1 c_5 = \sum_{J \in \mathcal{A}_{5,0}(\alpha_\varepsilon)} (-1)^{|J \cap \{4\}|+3+1} = -1,$$

since

$$\mathcal{A}_{5,0}(\alpha_\varepsilon) = \{J \subset \{4, 5\} \mid \ell_J(\alpha_\varepsilon) > 0 \text{ and } 5 < \ell_J(\alpha_\varepsilon)\} = \{\{4, 5\}\}.$$

Finally,

$$\int_{U_S(\alpha_\varepsilon)} i_S^* c_4 c_5 = \int_{U_S(1,1,3,6+\varepsilon)} i_S^* c_4 + \int_{U_S(1,1,3,\varepsilon)} i_S^* c_4 = - \int_{U_S(1,1,3,6+\varepsilon)} i_S^* c_1 + 0 = 1,$$

where we used Claim 3, the fact that S is not short for $(1, 1, 3, \varepsilon)$ and the fact that, in $U_S(1, 1, 3, 6 + \varepsilon)$, one has

$$i_S^* c_1 = -PD(U_S(1, 1, 3, 6 + \varepsilon) \cap W_1) = -PD(\{\text{pt}\}).$$

By Theorem 5.3-(5.21),

$$\int_{U_S(\alpha_\varepsilon)} i_S^* c_4 c_5 = (-1)^4 |\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{5,1}(\alpha_\varepsilon)| = 1,$$

since

$$\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{5,1}(\alpha_\varepsilon) = \{J \subset \{4, 5\} \mid \ell_J(\alpha_\varepsilon) > 5\} = \{\{4, 5\}\}.$$

These values agree with the fact that, since S is a maximal short set for α , the core component U_S is \mathbb{CP}^2 (cf. Proposition 2.18). Indeed one can choose c_1 to be the generator of $H^2(U_S(\alpha))$.

6. INTERSECTION NUMBERS FOR PHBS

In this section we will use the isomorphism $\mathcal{F} : \mathcal{H}(\beta) \rightarrow X(\alpha)$ defined in (3.3) to obtain explicit formulas for the intersection numbers of the nilpotent cone components of $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$. Consider the pull backs $\mathcal{F}^* \tilde{V}_i$ of \tilde{V}_i as in the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{F}^* \tilde{V}_i & \longrightarrow & \tilde{V}_i \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi \\ \mathcal{H}(\beta) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} & X(\alpha). \end{array}$$

In particular,

$$\mathcal{F}^* \tilde{V}_i := \left\{ ([E, \Phi], (p, q)) \in \mathcal{H}(\beta) \times \tilde{V}_i \mid \mathcal{F}([E, \Phi]) = \pi((p, q)) \right\}.$$

Note that the PHBs $[E, \Phi] \in \mathcal{H}(\beta)$ for which there exists $(p, q) \in \tilde{V}_i$ such that $\mathcal{F}([E, \Phi]) = \pi((p, q))$ have parabolic structure at x_i given by

$$\mathbb{C}^2 = E_{x,1} \supset E_{x,2} = \langle (1, 0)^t \rangle \supset 0$$

and Higgs field with residue of the form

$$(6.1) \quad \text{Res}_x \Phi = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Indeed, since any $(p, q) \in \tilde{V}_i$ satisfies

$$(q_i q_i^* - p_i^* p_i)_0 = \begin{pmatrix} t & 0 \\ 0 & -t \end{pmatrix}, \quad t > 0,$$

writing, as usual, $p_i = (a_i, b_i)$ and $q_i = (c_i, d_i)^t$, one has

$$c_i \bar{d}_i - a_i \bar{b}_i = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad |c_i|^2 - |d_i|^2 - |a_i|^2 + |b_i|^2 > 0$$

which, together with (2.4) gives $a_i = d_i = 0$. Then, (6.1) follows from (3.8).

Consider the first Chern classes of these pull back bundles $c_1(\mathcal{F}^* \tilde{V}_i) = \mathcal{F}^* c_i$ which we will also denote by c_i . Then it is clear that these classes generate $H^*(\mathcal{H}(\beta), \mathbb{Q})$ as in the case of hyperpolygon spaces (cf. [25], [18] and [16]). In particular, following Corollary 4.5 in [18] we can explicitly describe the ring structure of the cohomology of $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$.

Theorem 6.1. *The cohomology ring $H(\mathcal{H}(\beta), \mathbb{Q})$ is independent of β and is isomorphic to*

$$\mathbb{Q}[c_1, \dots, c_n] / (\langle c_i^2 - c_j^2 \mid i, j \leq n \rangle + \langle \text{all monomials of degree } n-2 \rangle).$$

Moreover one can reduce the computation of the intersection numbers of any nilpotent cone component $\mathcal{U}_{(0,S)} = \mathcal{J}(U_S(\beta))$ of $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ to one of the following two cases.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(I)} \quad & \int_{\mathcal{U}_{(0,S)}} \iota_S^* c_1^{n-3} = \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* c_1^{n-3}, \\ \text{(II)} \quad & \int_{\mathcal{U}_{(0,S)}} \iota_S^* (c_1^k c_{n-l} \cdots c_n) = \int_{U_S(\alpha)} i_S^* (c_1^k c_{n-l} \cdots c_n), \\ & \text{with } n-l > |S| \text{ and } k = n-l-4, \end{aligned}$$

where $\iota_S : \mathcal{U}_{(0,S)} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(\beta)$ is the inclusion map, and we used the fact that $\mathcal{F} \circ \iota_S \circ \mathcal{J} = i_S$. These integrals can then be computed using the formulas in Theorem 5.2 and Theorem 5.3.

The ring structure of $H^*(\mathcal{U}_{(0,S)}, \mathbb{Q})$ can also be obtained from the ring structure of $H^*(U_S, \mathbb{Q})$ (presented in [16]), through the isomorphism of Theorem 3.1. Explicitly, one obtains the following result.

Theorem 6.2. *Consider the classes $b_i = -\iota_S^* \left(\frac{c_1 + c_i}{2} \right)$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$. Then $H^*(\mathcal{U}_{(0,S)}, \mathbb{Q})$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Q}[b_1, \dots, b_n]/I_S$ where I_S is generated by the following four families of relations:*

- 1) $b_1 - b_i$ for all $i \in S$,
- 2) $b_j(b_1 - b_j)$ for all $j \in S^c$,
- 3) $\prod_{j \in R} b_j$ for all $R \subseteq S^c$ such that $R \cup S$ is long,
- 4) $b_1^{|S|-2} \prod_{j \in L} (b_j - b_1)$ for all long subsets $L \subseteq S^c$.

Note that relations 1) and 2) in Theorem 6.2 are trivial consequences of Claims 1 and 2 respectively.

Example 10. Let S be a maximal α -short set. Then

$$\mathcal{U}_{(0,S)} \cong U_S(\alpha) \cong \mathbb{CP}^{n-3}$$

(cf. Proposition 2.18). This can be confirmed using Theorem 6.2. In fact, $R \cup S$ is long for any $R \subseteq S^c$, so 3) implies that $b_j = 0$ for all $j \in S^c$, and then 2) is trivially verified. Since by 1) we have $b_1 = b_i$ for all $i \in S$, we can choose b_1 to be the generator of $H^*(\mathcal{U}_{(0,S)}, \mathbb{Q})$. Moreover, since S is maximal, the only long subset of S^c is S^c itself, and so I_S is generated by the unique condition $b_1^{n-2} = 0$. The cohomology ring of the nilpotent cone component $\mathcal{U}_{(0,S)} \cong \mathbb{CP}^{n-3}$ is then

$$H^*(\mathcal{U}_{(0,S)}, \mathbb{Q}) \cong \mathbb{Q}[b_1]/\langle b_1^{n-2} \rangle \cong H^*(\mathbb{CP}^{n-3}, \mathbb{Q})$$

as expected.

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DEPARTAMENTO DE MATEMÁTICA, INSTITUTO SUPERIOR TÉCNICO, AV. ROVISCO PAIS, 1049-001 LISBOA, PORTUGAL

E-mail address: lgodin@math.ist.utl.pt

CENTRO DE ANÁLISE MATEMÁTICA, GEOMETRIA E SISTEMAS DINÂMICOS, INSTITUTO SUPERIOR TÉCNICO, AV. ROVISCO PAIS, 1049-001 LISBOA, PORTUGAL

E-mail address: amandini@math.ist.utl.pt